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HISTORICAL PHOTO EXHIBIT OPENS AT BOROUGH HALL

Mountainside Restoration Committee

An historical photography exhibit entitled “If Walls Could Talk” opened at Mountainside’s Borough Hall. The exhibit shows historic photos of Mountainside Center in the early 1920s. The photos were provided through the archives of the Mountainside Restoration Committee. At the opening ceremony held in January, Dr. John B. Sharkey, Archivist for the Committee, led an historic “walking tour” along the walls of photographs for Mountainside’s Mayor Paul N. Mirabelli, the Borough Council, members of the Mountainside Restoration Committee, and invited guests.

The photographs were based on a walking tour conducted by Harriet Wentlandt Carmichael (1907-2000) entitled “Down Memory Lane, a Walking Tour of a Part of Mountainside in the Early 1920s.” Harriet was born in Westfield in 1907 and later moved to Plainfield where she was a teacher in elementary education for thirty years. She moved back to Westfield and resided on Grant Avenue, off Woodland Avenue, near Mountainside Center. During the silent film era of the 1920s and 30s, she played piano at the Rialto Theater in Westfield. She was also an active member of the Westfield Historical Society, which no doubt led her to organize walking tours of Mountainside Center. Mountainside broke away from the town of Westfield in 1895 and became a separate



(above) Historical photos of early downtown Mountainside line the walls at Borough Hall during the unveiling of this new photo exhibit.

Photo by John Sharkey

borough.

The exhibit includes photos of Mountainside Center on Mountain Avenue, Children’s Specialized Hospital, Mountainside Red Brick School, the “Ole Swimming Hole”, the Willow Grove School, Borough Hall, the Fire House, Coles Memorial Home, Bliwise General Store, and more. This permanent exhibit is open for viewing during normal business hours at Mountainside Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22, Mountainside.

The Mountainside Restoration Committee is a committee of volunteers whose purpose is to restore and maintain the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House and the Levi Cory House and collect and save historical information and items from destruction. For information on the Mountainside Restoration Committee events or to donate funds, please call 908-233-3135; or visit: mountainsidehistory.org



(above) Early Levi Cory House



(above) Mountainside Red Brick School

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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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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

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

Photo by Berkeley Heights Public Schools



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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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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ELIZABETH-PLAINFIELD

The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield (JLEP) is pleased to announce that in 2025 we will be awarding three \$4,000 scholarships to college bound women who reside in Union County and demonstrate a passion for volunteerism.

The JLEP believes that volunteerism is a vital force in our community, and we support young women who share our passion by awarding scholarships to college-bound high school seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to volunteer activities. The scholarships will be awarded in May 2025.

To be considered for a scholarship, applicants are asked to complete the application form, write a 300-to-400-word essay about their volunteer experiences, and provide two letters of recommendation. The application form is available on our website, jlepnj.org, or can also be obtained by sending a request via email to scholarship@jlepnj.org or by leaving a message

with your address and/or email address at 908-709-1177.

The deadline for submitting applications is April 4, 2025. There will be a formal presentation of the scholarships to the recipients at the JLEP's Annual Dinner on May 21, 2025.

To find out more about the League's scholarship program or about how to join as a member, please contact the League at 908-709-1177, via email at scholarship@jlepnj.org, or visit our website at jlepnj.org.

ABOUT THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ELIZABETH PLAINFIELD

The Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield is a chapter of the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. and 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.



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.



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SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY



The Blanche M. and George L. Watts Mountainside Community Foundation annually provides one or more college scholarships to a graduating senior residing in Mountainside. The Foundation will also entertain applications from students applying to associate degree programs at community colleges and certificate programs at accredited technical or trade schools. The scholarship will be awarded based on financial need, academic competency (we are not necessarily looking for A students), community involvement and merit.

All applications must be completed and returned no later than April 1, 2025.

Visit wattsmountainside.org for eligibility requirements and to submit a scholarship application.

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 repaircafesg.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.



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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BSA TROOP 177 PARTICIPATES IN 2025 KLONDIKE DERBY

Submitted by Michele Worth

Mountainside Boy Scout Troop 177 was proud to participate in this year's Klondike Derby held on Saturday, February 1, 2025, at the Watchung Reservation in Mountainside.

The scouts received points for being prepared, completing tasks, working as a team, and demonstrating Scout Spirit. They rotated through multiple "Klondike Towns", including Cooking, Fire Building, First Aid, Knots, Lashings,

Orienteering, and Teamwork.

At the Cooking Town, scouts were required to prepare a hot, nutritious lunch for their entire sled, as well as a sample serving for the judges. At the Fire Building Town, scouts were required to build a fire lay, start a fire, and bring water to a boil within the allotted time. At the First Aid Town, scouts were presented with a First Aid scenario that was performed to include all members of their Klondike sled team. At the

Knots Town, scouts were asked to demonstrate and tie a series of knots, were quizzed about which knots were suitable for different tasks and were presented a series of knots to identify. At the Lashings Town, scouts tied lashings such as square, diagonal and shear. At the Orienteering Town, led by Jeff Healy, scouts were asked to demonstrate their knowledge of orienteering tasks such as finding a location on a map, navigating to a designated location, and answering general orienteering questions as found in their Scout Handbook. At the Teamwork Town, scouts participated in group problem solving scenarios to demonstrate their teamwork, communication, and leadership skills. They learned the mnemonic "TEAM": Together Everyone Achieves More.

In addition, the scouts demonstrated community service by presenting donations for those in need. These donations included standard grocery bags of non-perishable foodstuffs which were be donated to a local food bank, an assortment of toiletry items which were donated to a local VA, and a collection of new clothing including socks, hats and/or gloves which were donated to a local homeless shelter.

If you are interested in Scouting, please get in touch with the Troop 177 Scoutmaster, Jeff Healy, at jeffhealy8@gmail.com. Follow us on Facebook at [MountainsideBoyScouts.com](https://www.facebook.com/MountainsideBoyScouts.com).



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ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE SWORN IN

Child Focus

On Thursday, Feb. 13, Union County Superior Court Judge Gavin I. Handwerker presided over the swearing-in of 12 volunteers who trained with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Passaic and Union Counties to advocate for vulnerable children in foster care. Among them is Mountainside resident Patricia Joffe.

Classmates include Michelle Conway of Cranford; Byron Ruales-Correa of Orange; Juliette Abadir and James Pritchett of Scotch Plains, and Sharon Dorry, Mary Louise Kandigian, Tara McGroddy, Cecilia Nicholas, and Dalida Nigro, of Westfield.

Now equipped to champion the best interests of child victims of abuse and neglect, the volunteers join a team of hundreds of devoted advocates with CASA of Passaic and Union Counties who provide life-changing advocacy and support services to each of the more than 350 children across both counties living in foster care through no fault of their own.

“These 12 community members have made an invaluable commitment to ensure every child’s voice is heard and valued. We are proud to welcome them as Court Appointed Special Advocates,” said Erica Fischer-Kaslander, Executive Director of Child Focus, the nonprofit organization that oversees the CASA program. “Each volunteer brings unique perspectives and strengths that will impact the lives of those who

need it most. I encourage anyone interested in supporting vulnerable children to attend an information session to learn how they, too, can make a difference as a child advocate.”

No prior knowledge of child welfare is required to become a CASA volunteer; comprehensive training equips volunteers with the skills necessary to advocate effectively. Volunteer advocates visit their assigned child at least once monthly and communicate with

caregivers, educators, caseworkers, and others in the child's life to make informed recommendations to the judge.

CASA of Passaic and Union Counties is a program of Child Focus, which prioritizes the needs and well-being of infants, children, and teens impacted by, or at risk of, abuse or neglect. For details about the CASA program, call 973-832-4002, e-mail info@casapassaicunion.org, or visit www.casapassaicunion.org.



(above) Union County Superior Court Judge Gavin I. Handwerker presided over the swearing-in of 12 volunteers who trained with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Passaic and Union Counties to advocate for vulnerable children in foster care.

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Flesh World is a collaboration of drummer Justin Vedovelli, keyboardist Peter Rushing, and saxophonist/ keyboardist Carter Vames. They play an eclectic and experimental mix of diverse musical styles, ranging from free jazz to Afro-Caribbean and pop. Their repertoire includes cutting-edge original compositions as well as covers of tunes by popular artists such as Britney Spears, Juice WRLD, and Nine Inch Nails. At the May 2024 show they opened for headliner band Coo Moe Ghee, who, along with the audience, raved about them. True eclectic music lovers will appreciate their musical style in our excellent music "listening room".

ST. JOSEPH SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER DEDICATES RENOVATED MAIN HALL

The St. Joseph's community, including residents from Elizabeth and volunteers and supporters from five counties in New Jersey, came together on February 8 to celebrate the renovation of the Main Hall on its campus. The Hall is the main building at the agency, used to provide a wide array of social services to residents in need in Elizabeth. The renovated Main Hall includes new private offices for mental health counseling and case management services, new facilities for the soup kitchen program, new spaces for the Adult Learning Center and health and nutrition workshops and diagnostic testing, and a reception area where residents can obtain information about agency programs and community services. Karen Maher, President of the Board of Trustees, noted that these new spaces have "allowed the agency to expand services to the community, particularly in the areas of physical and behavioral health."

The renovation of the Main Hall marks the successful completion of a comprehensive facilities improvement plan for the agency. From the initial planning phase five years ago, the principal objectives of this plan have been to 1) enhance and expand services to families and children in need in Elizabeth; and 2) offer services in an environment with greater dignity. "Dignity has been a core value of the agency since our founding in 1986," noted Bernadette

Murphy, Executive Director. "Our goal is to help people acquire the material items they need to live with dignity. We believe that it is vital for our clients to receive food, clothing, supplies and support services in an environment that fosters dignity, where individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness are truly welcomed as sisters and brothers."

The renovations have created new spaces to serve the needs of Elizabeth residents more effectively. The private offices for counseling and case management, for example, now allow staff to speak with residents in confidence about mental and physical health issues, family dynamics and personal trauma. The Adult Learning Center now has a dedicated space for English as a Second Language classes and for work skills training sessions. Community healthcare partners have state of the art spaces to test and diagnose residents on health issues. There is now adequate space to offer health, nutrition and wellness workshops. The soup kitchen now has new equipment and better workflow to serve food. And the reception desk finally gives the agency a central place for residents to come to access agency and community partner resources. All of these spaces have allowed the agency to improve and expand services.

Guests at the dedication included contributors to the \$1.6 million capital campaign to finance

the renovations, community leaders in Elizabeth and Union County, agency volunteers and partners and residents of the local neighborhood. As part of the dedication program, soup kitchen volunteers convened to recognize the founders of the agency by naming the new soup kitchen the "Founders Kitchen" in the Main Hall. Remarkably, the soup kitchen has served guests every single Saturday for 2025 weeks without interruption since the agency was established. Founder and longtime Executive Director of the agency, Sister Jacinta Fernandes, traveled from her community in Maryland to attend the dedication. All in attendance toured the Founders Kitchen and other renovated spaces in the Main Hall and participated in a moving dedication ceremony.

Six days a week a dedicated team of more than 6,000 volunteers from Elizabeth, Union, Clark, Westfield, Cranford, Mountainside and dozens of other communities, make sandwiches for the hungry in their kitchens, bring food, clothing and home goods, serve meals at the soup kitchen and help with the operations of the agency. St. Joseph's serves over 3,500 individuals annually. The organization helps Elizabeth residents access food, medicine, mental health counseling, adult education, clothing and a myriad of additional healthcare and support services.

To learn more about St. Joseph Social Service Center, please visit www.sjeliz.org



(above, l-r) Msgr. Tom Nydegger St. Helen's Westfield, Marilyn Ryan St. Helen's Westfield, Steven Abood St. Helen's Westfield, Sr. Jacinta Fernandes Founder of St. Joseph's, Ray Kostyack, Jr. St. Helen's Westfield, Cindy Abood St. Helen's Westfield, Annette Calderin St. Joseph Social Service Center Elizabeth, Maria Chaillet St. John's Clark, Shirley, Doris & Idali Ramirez Immaculate Conception Elizabeth, Jerry Conheeny St. Michael's Cranford, Aswm. Annette Quijano LD 20, Joan Garthwaite Holy Spirit Union, Harold Kessler Building Project Manager & St. Helen's, Michael Marcus Temple Sha'arey Shalom Springfield, Fr. Anthony Randazzo Holy Trinity Westfield, Second.

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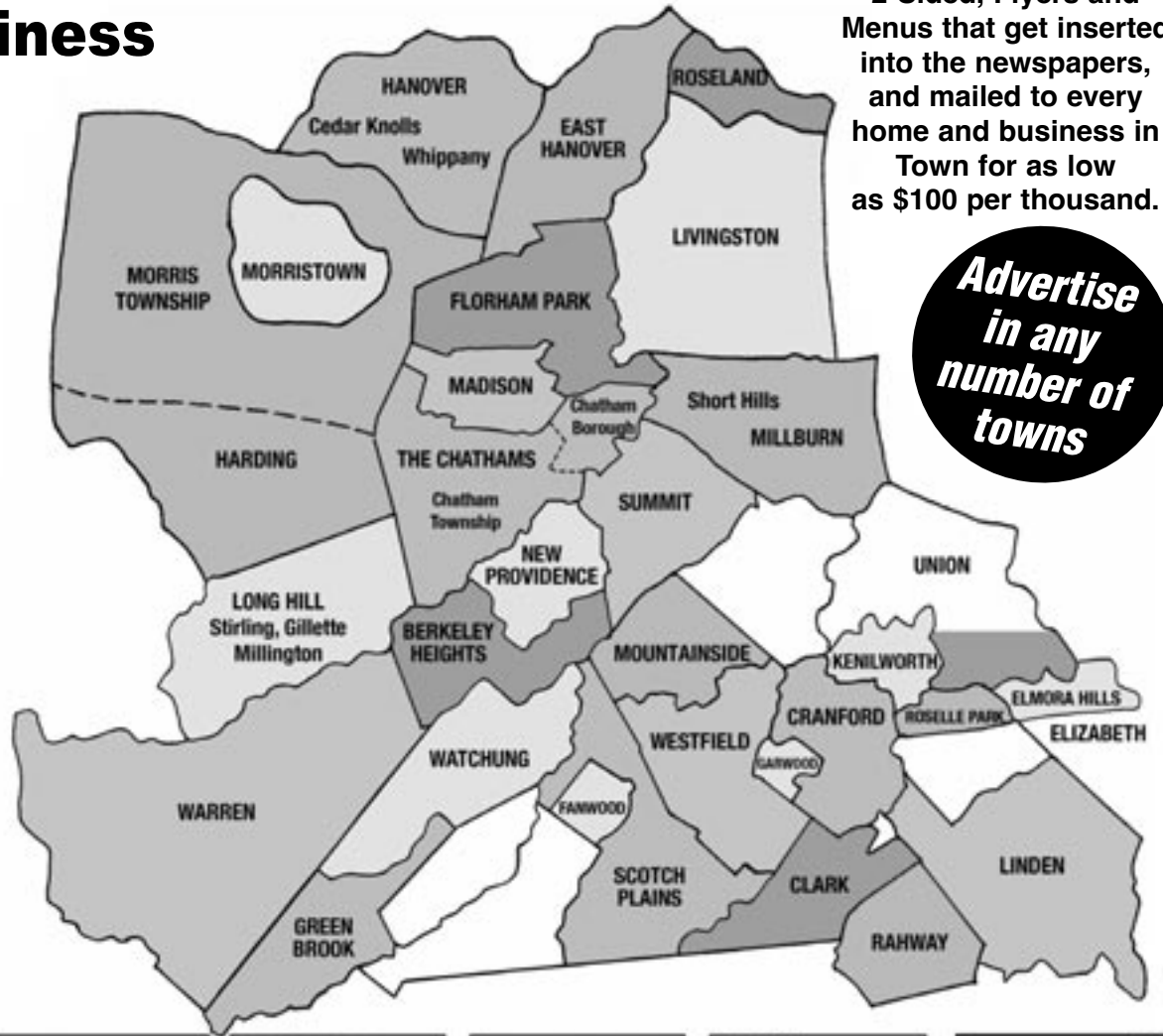
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6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF PAGE	6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
12 Units	6.5"x14"	400	960	1400	1800	2100	2400	2700	3000	3300	3600	3900
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