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## TREES AVAILABLE THROUGH GRANT

### Long Hill Township

Long Hill again has a challenge grant and is offering home or property owners in Long Hill a chance to purchase up to two deciduous shade trees for \$275 each through the Shade Tree Commission.

Business owners are also encouraged to apply, particularly those along the Valley Road corridor.

The \$275 level includes a variety of flowering and shade tree species. All trees must be located so they can be seen from the street.

Through this program, property owners may purchase a tree for less than the retail value, with the township paying the balance with the grant. Installation is arranged by the Township Public Works Department.

The Shade Tree Commission continues to encourage species diversity in order to counteract the problems incurred by planting too many trees of one species (such as the ash or elm). The LHSTC is now offering chestnut oaks, tupelos and lindens, as well as maples, dogwood, and redbuds.

Those interested in participating must complete an application available on the township website at [longhillnj.gov/forms/Challenge-grant-program-application.pdf](http://longhillnj.gov/forms/Challenge-grant-program-application.pdf).

This application should be accompanied by a check for \$275 per tree (with a tree limit of 2) and mailed to Township of Long Hill, 915 Valley Road Gillette, NJ 07933.

Applications are due by Monday, April 15, 2025. Only 20 applications will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

A Shade Tree Commission representative will contact the property owner to approve the location of the tree(s) on the property and to select the variety of tree that would be the best fit for the location. Trees will be planted mid-to-late May.

The Shade Tree Commission reserves the right to make the final decision on location and arrangement for installation. Once installed, the property owner becomes responsible for the watering and maintenance of the tree as prescribed by the Shade Tree Commission.



(above, left) The common name "chestnut oak" owes to the leaves looking like those of American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) and indeed both are members of the beech family, *Fagaceae*. There's growing interest in using chestnut oak in the urban environment because it is pH-adaptable, handles dry soils and periods of drought, has a beautiful mature form, requires minimal pruning, and tends to be free of major pests and diseases.

(above, right) Called "one of the best and most consistent native trees for fall color" by tree expert Michael Dirr, the black tupelo is a terrific landscaping choice. Displaying various hues of yellow, orange, bright red and purple—often on the same branch—its foliage is a stand-out of the autumn season. Even the distinctive bark, which resembles alligator hide, adds visual and textural interest. It also serves as an important food source for birds, bees and other wildlife.



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# Long Hill LEADER

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Long Hill Leader is published by Renna Media. 3,500 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Long Hill, NJ. Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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## SEND US YOUR NEWS

Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (honor, award, etc.), send us your news! **Email: [editor@rennamedia.com](mailto:editor@rennamedia.com)**

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## STIRLING FIREFIGHTERS' READY FOR STREET FAIR AND MOTHER'S DAY EVENTS

The 25th annual venison dinner held on March 8th was a big success with more than 200 guests enjoying what they rate the best venison dinner in NJ. The event included a 50/50 and raffle of donated items and was hosted by more than 20 firefighters and helpers.

The Stirling Street Fair takes place on Main St., Stirling on April 27 and the Stirling volunteer firefighters will have their popular Sausage & Peppers sandwiches, hot dogs, and beverages for sale with tables and chairs on which to sit and

enjoy your meal. Their tasty sausage & pepper sandwiches attract repeat customers every year. They'll also have fire safety and fire prevention free coloring books for the kids and visitors can climb aboard one of their new fire engines and take photos. They are located at the northern end of the street towards the railroad station.

Mother's Day May 11 will feature a pancake breakfast at the firehouse, \$15 adults and \$10 under 12 and senior citizens. Details in the May edition of the Long Hill Leader.

## ELKS HOST TOWNWIDE GARAGE SALE - MAY 4

The Long Hill Township Townwide Garage Sale to be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., rain or shine.

The cost is \$25 to have your address on the map. The deadline is April 30 to be included on the map. The sale will be advertised.

Payments can be made by credit card or by check. Please send an email to [townwidegaragesale@gmail.com](mailto:townwidegaragesale@gmail.com) to get the link to pay by credit card.

Checks, made out to the Stirling Elks, can be mailed by April 30 to:

Stirling Elks, c/o Kelly Mazzocchi,  
1138 Valley Road, Stirling, NJ 07980.  
Please include address, phone number and email address.

Any questions, please email [townwidegaragesale@gmail.com](mailto:townwidegaragesale@gmail.com).

Emails will be answered within 48 hours of receipt of email.

## TIMELESS TREASURES WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

*Senior Citizen Center of Long Hill*

Join us on Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Senior Center, 769 Valley Road, Gillette N.J. for our White Elephant Sale.

Our members will be selling everything and anything they wish to part with from household

goods, collectibles, decorative pieces, small electronics, paintings, and jewelry.

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# MARTIAL ARTS STUDENT RECEIVES SPECIAL CERTIFICATION



(above, l-r) Andrew Masini, Certified Master Instructor and Program Director, Amos Chang, and Lydia Chu Certified Master Instructor and Co-owner.

Submitted by Michelle Cavett

Amos Chang, 12, of Gillette, received his Jo Kyo level instructor certification in the Korean martial art of Soo Bahk Do Moo Duk Kwan on Tuesday, February 25th at a special ceremony held at Chu’s Academy of Martial Arts in Gillette. Jo Kyo Chang is a second degree black belt and a member of the Academy’s prestigious Leadership Team. He attends Central Middle School in Stirling where he distinguishes himself in playing the trombone in his school’s band.

“Jo Kyo” is the first of three levels of instructor certification in Soo Bahk Do Moo Duk Kwan. Instructor certification represents an additional level of classroom training, physical training, written testing, practical testing and demonstration during the course of a rigorous

Leadership Program at Chu’s Academy. While the general curriculum at Chu’s Academy of Martial Arts develops the “three C’s” of courage, concentration and confidence for all students, the Leadership Program augments the poise, presence and intentionality of its participants.

Chu’s Academy of Martial Arts, located in Gillette, has been developing positive attributes in children since 1982. The Academy is led by co-owners Lydia Chu and Michelle Cavett, and Program Director Andrew Masini. Chu, Cavett and Masini are internationally certified master instructors in the Korean martial art of Soo Bahk Do Moo Duk Kwan.

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# LIONS CLUB EXPO ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR VENDORS

Spring has just arrived and there is a certain warmth in the air. It's from the Lions Club gears, picking up speed on EXPO readiness activities. Warren Lions Club EXPO 2025 will be here soon. It is the single biggest social and commercial event, held every year around mid-June, at the Warren Township municipal field (46 Mountain Boulevard). The gathering is a classic CARNIVAL for all ages, family and friends, 6-10pm from Wednesday to Saturday. This year's EXPO, in its 57th occurrence, will be hosted from 11th to 14th June, 2025. There will be amusement rides, games of chance, fireworks, food vendors, and an exposition of local businesses and not-for-profits organizations. We will also have a spectacular Fireworks, which concludes the EXPO on Saturday, 10 p.m.

Our Event sponsors are The Connections Magazine and NextHome Premier.

The Lions EXPO attracts more than 10,000 people, over the four days, and has become the premier family & friends' melting pot, in the Warren Township and the neighboring communities.

In addition to the daily tickets, the EXPO has the pay-one-price wristbands every night. And don't forget the Giant 50/50 cash raffle with the drawing on Saturday June 14th, resulting in thousands of dollars payout to a single winner. The winner need not be present at the drawing. Tickets will be available for purchase at the Expo, every night, for \$5 each.

## LOCAL BUSINESS EXPOSITION

The EXPO is an excellent platform for local businesses to showcase their services and connect directly with customers through the purchase of a \$500 Exclusive Game sponsor sign or a \$150 non-exclusive ride sponsor sign, displayed at the Expo for the 4 days.

"Interacting with potential customers at a high profile community event can greatly boost a company's image and customer base," noted Anthony Franchini, the Warren Lions Club Treasurer. "Community members deeply appreciate those businesses that demonstrate their local support through events like this," said Mark Ramos, the EXPO Chairperson.

We have started accepting applications for tent vendors to sell or promote their businesses to the thousands of people in attendance at the gathering. For information on becoming a tent vendor at the 2025 Warren Lions EXPO, please contact Anthony Franchini at 908-334-9304.

All proceed from the Lions EXPO are donated back to the community organizations and sight and hearing foundations throughout New Jersey.

## ABOUT THE LIONS CLUB OF WARREN TOWNSHIP

When caring people come together, roll up their sleeves and take actions to make their community better, it's a beautiful thing and an incredible feeling for everyone involved. That's Lions. Being a Lion is about leading by example, building relationships and improving the world through kindness.

Lions Clubs International is made up of 1.4

million members in 49,000 clubs who bring hands and hearts to the communities we serve in nearly every country on earth. Our Lions and Leos help hundreds of millions of people every year.

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) provides grants that empower the service of our members. Since its inception in 1968, LCIF has awarded more than US\$1.2 billion in grant funding.

The Warren Lions Club currently has more than 100 active members from the Township as well as surrounding communities. Members include business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and bonding in the communities.

All funds raised by the Lions Club of Warren Township are used to support a wide variety of community service organizations and projects. The Club holds dinner meetings every second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from September through June and occasionally feature speakers, donation recipients and special guests that inform and entertain. The Club encourages all members to help set the direction of our Club, participate in leadership roles, and identify causes to support and the Club's priorities, while fostering camaraderie and advancing our mission.

To learn more, please visit Warren Lions Club website [warrenlionsclub.org](http://warrenlionsclub.org), and social media page [facebook.com/warrenlionsclub.org](https://facebook.com/warrenlionsclub.org).

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# EXPO2025

The Warren Township Lions Club proudly presents our 57th Lions Expo! Calling all families and thrill-seekers! Get ready for a few nights of non-stop fun, laughter, and excitement at our annual Lions Expo!

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For information & sponsor opportunities, call Anthony Franchini at (908) 334-9304. or visit the Warren Township Lions Club online at [www.WarrenLionsClub.org](http://www.WarrenLionsClub.org)

The 2025 Expo is sponsored by:  
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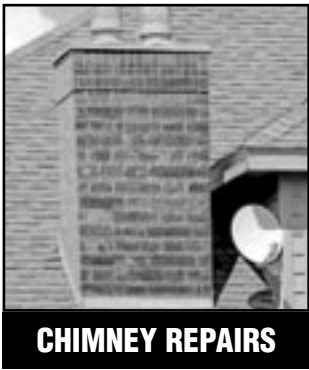
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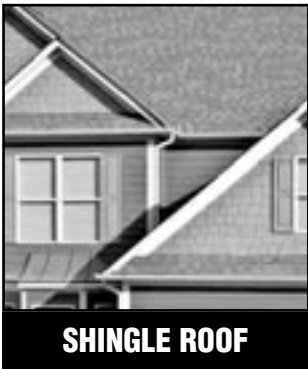
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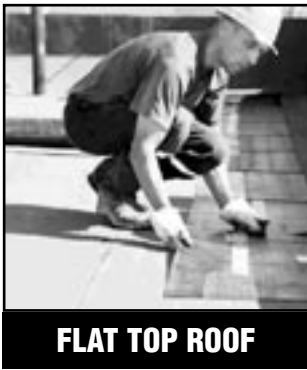
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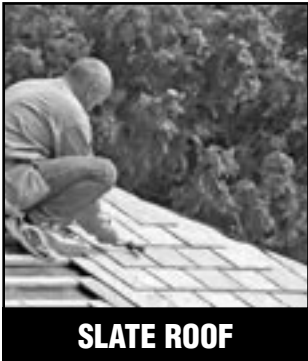
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# LONG HILL TOWNSHIP LIBRARY APRIL PROGRAMS

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## CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS:

### Moneywise for Kids

#### Children’s Financial Literacy Program

Tuesday, April 15 at 4pm

Presented by Citizens Bank of Stirling. Using age appropriate narratives to introduce concepts like the value of money, the importance of saving, and how to spend money wisely. There will be activities about identifying currency and practice adding currency. Registration required.

#### Pearl Observatory’s Traveling Planetarium

Wednesday, April 16 @ 4pm

The inflatable planetarium is an awesome way to experience the night sky! Learn about planets, stars, constellations, and the Milky Way. Ages 5 and up. Registration required.

#### Music Around the World Workshop presented by Wharton Arts

Friday, April 18 @ 10:30am

Explore musical traditions and cultures around the world through different instruments, crafts, and traditional clothing. Children will dance, sing, play games, and learn new words from countries all over the World.

Registration required.

#### Read to a Dog Storytime with Creature Comfort Pet Therapy

Saturday, April 19 @ 10:30am

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

### Family Game Night: Mario Kart Tournament

Tuesday, April 15 @ 6pm

Family game night featuring a Mario Kart 8 tourney for kids, teens, and adults! We also have board games, cards, and puzzles to play. Bring the family for an evening of fun! No registration required.

## ADULT PROGRAMS:

### Bears in Your Backyard

Sunday, April 6 @ 1:30pm

Bear sightings are increasing throughout the state of New Jersey. Do you know what to do if you see a bear? This program will help you become educated in bear “etiquette” by a naturalist from the Somerset County Park Commission Environmental Education Center. You will learn ‘the bear necessities’ and walk away with a better understanding of bears.

### The AARP Smart Driver Course (2 Sessions)

Wednesday, April 9 & April 16 @ 1pm-4pm

Take the @AARP Smart Driver course offered at the LHT Library and you may get a discount on your auto insurance! Driving isn’t what it used to be. Roads change, cars change, and even we change. Get a refresher with the newly updated AARP Smart Driver classroom course.

This is a 2 session, 3-hour course.

### Rutgers Master Gardner Series - Growing Iris

Monday, April 7 @ 7pm on Zoom

The focus of this presentation will be on planting, growing, dividing and caring for varieties of bearded and beardless iris. An informational handout will be provided.

### LHT Library 20th Birthday Celebration

Friday, April 25 @ 5pm

Join us for a special open house event at 5pm to celebrate all things Library! We will have a birthday cake, a trivia contest, kid’s games and activities, and more! Plus, we will have a special performance by the WHRHS music honor society chorus and band, the TriMs!

### Hickory Tree Chorus Quartet – Special LHT Library Birthday Performance

Saturday, April 26 @ 11am

Come to the library and enjoy beautiful music sung for us in 4- part harmony! The Hickory Tree Chorus has been entertaining audiences in the New Jersey area since 1968 and we are happy to have a quartet perform at the LHT Library as part of the LHT Library Birthday Celebration.

### New Jersey Owls

Tuesday, April 29 @ 6:30pm

As part of the LHT Library’s 20th Birthday Celebration, join a Naturalist from the Somerset County Park Commission Environmental Education Center and spend some time learning about NJ owls – the Library’s mascot! Explore the nocturnal world of these fascinating birds of prey. Whether with long or short ears, barred or great horned, these raptors are truly special.



LONG HILL PARKS & RECREATION PRESENTS

**SPRING EGG HUNT**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH  
10AM SHARP

FREE EVENT  
EGG HUNT FOR LONG HILL CHILDREN  
AGES 8 & UNDER

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RAIN DATE: APRIL 19TH

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Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025

*Share Easter Dinner*  
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**It's as simple as:**

- Placing a frozen Turkey or Ham in a cardboard box along with a few side items (beans, rice, vegetables, etc.)
- Bringing the box to the SVDP Clock Tower on Sunday, April 13th from 7:30 to Noon. The truck leaves at Noon – don't be late!

**DROP OFF TIME:**  
7:30 A.M. - Noon

**DROP OFF LOCATION:**  
Clock Tower, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Bebout Avenue, Stirling, NJ

**ACCEPTING:**  
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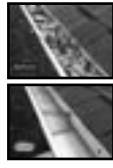
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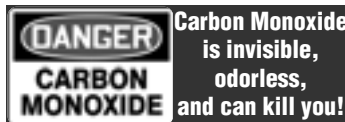


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10:00 a.m. Festival Liturgy with Eucharist  
**Holy Thursday - April 17**  
12 noon Spoken Liturgy with Eucharist  
7:30 p.m. Liturgy with Rite of First Holy Communion  
**Good Friday - April 18**  
12 noon Community Ecumenical Service  
7:30 p.m. Service of Tenebrae  
**Holy Saturday - April 19**  
A Day of Silence, Prayer & Reflection  
**Easter Celebration - April 20**  
7:00 a.m. Memorial Garden Liturgy  
8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Liturgies with Eucharist  
Livestream available on our website [www.famfaith.org](http://www.famfaith.org)  
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## Help stock the Food Pantry



### Items needed:

- Black Beans (canned)
- Peanut Butter/ Jams / Jelly
- Canned Chicken & Tuna
- Snack Foods:  
Pretzels, Crackers, Chips
- Cooking Oil

### Donations locations:

- All Saints' Church, 15 Basking Ridge Road, Millington *Side doors of Church*
- Long Hill Library, 917 Valley Road, Gillette *Entry Hall*
- ShopRite, 1153 Valley Road, Stirling *wire collection basket near EXIT door*



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**PUCCINI**  
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Sunday, April 6, 2025 at 2:00 pm  
The Mansion at Fairleigh Dickinson University  
Madison, NJ

Concert benefitting our  
Annual International Vocal Competition  
on May 4, 2025

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\*This benefit concert is not part of the season subscriptions  
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## A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR RISING OPERA STARS

Opera at Florham proudly presents Celebriamo Puccini, a breathtaking concert celebrating the timeless works of Giacomo Puccini. In honor of the recent centenary of Puccini's death, this special benefit event will take place on Sunday, April 6, 2025, at 2:00 pm at The Mansion at Fairleigh Dickinson, 285 Madison Avenue, Madison, NJ 07940.

Audiences will be transported by the passion, drama, and exquisite beauty of Puccini's most beloved Operas, such as La Bohème, Tosca, Madama Butterfly, and Turandot. The concert will feature Arias from these best loved Opera as well as a distinguished lineup of rising Opera singers, whose exceptional artistry brings Puccini's masterful compositions to life.

Proceeds from ticket sales will directly support the awards for Opera at Florham's Annual International Vocal Competition, taking place on Sunday, May 4, 2025. This prestigious competition provides critical financial support and performance opportunities for emerging Opera singers, reinforcing Opera at Florham's commitment to nurturing the next generation of Opera stars.

Tickets for Celebriamo Puccini are \$30 for general admission and can be purchased online in advance or at the door. More information and ticket details are available at [www.operaatflorham.org](http://www.operaatflorham.org). Student discounts are available.

This benefit concert offers an unforgettable musical experience while directly supporting the



(above 2024 first place winner,  
Trevor Haumschilt-Rocha, Baritone)

future of Opera. Join Opera at Florham for an afternoon of extraordinary music and help champion the next generation of Operatic excellence.

## HIT THE TRAILS - 4/24

Morris County Library

Learn about prep, equipment, maps, food, support and more for day and overnight treks on the Appalachian Trail, Long Path, Highlands Trail and more. This program will take place on Wednesday, April 24th from 6:30pm to 8:00pm and is recommended for adults.

During this program, Trail Conference member, Don Weise and Kim Levinsky, from Sassquad Trail Running, will share their experiences and knowledge.

Kim Levinsky is the founder and director of Sassquad Trail Running, a local organization that hosts trail races throughout the year. Levinsky recently achieved Fastest Known Time (FKT) running the 358-mile Long Path from Fort Lee NJ to Albany NY.

Don Weise is an author, hike leader, environmental advocate, and Trail Conference Life Member. His new book Circuit Hikes in Harimann is the first ever comprehensive guide to circuit hikes in these two highly popular parks. With 35 total loop hikes, including 8 hikes that can also be suitable for other uses, this guidebook is perfect for anyone interested in exploring the rich network of trails.

Please note that while registration is not required, seating is limited and will be available on a first come, first served basis.

For questions or concerns, please contact the Reference Department at (973) 285-6969.

## COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENTS RANKED #1 IN STATE AND HEADED TO FINALS IN MAY



Warren Hills Region High School Computer Science students competed in the First Annual Garden State CTF Cybersecurity competition sponsored by NJCCIC. There were 370 teams competing, including many of the top schools in

the state. Warren Hills had 2 teams in the top 10 of the qualifying round, including the #1 team in the state : David C, Dylan F, Angelina L and Franco G. This team will compete in the finals at TCNJ on May 28th. Good luck in the finals!

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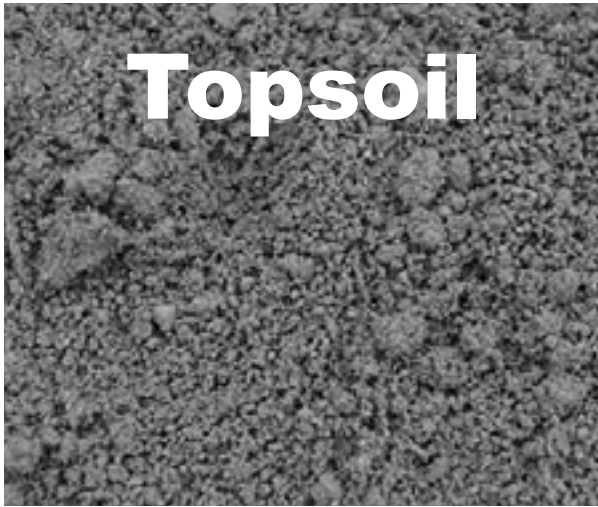
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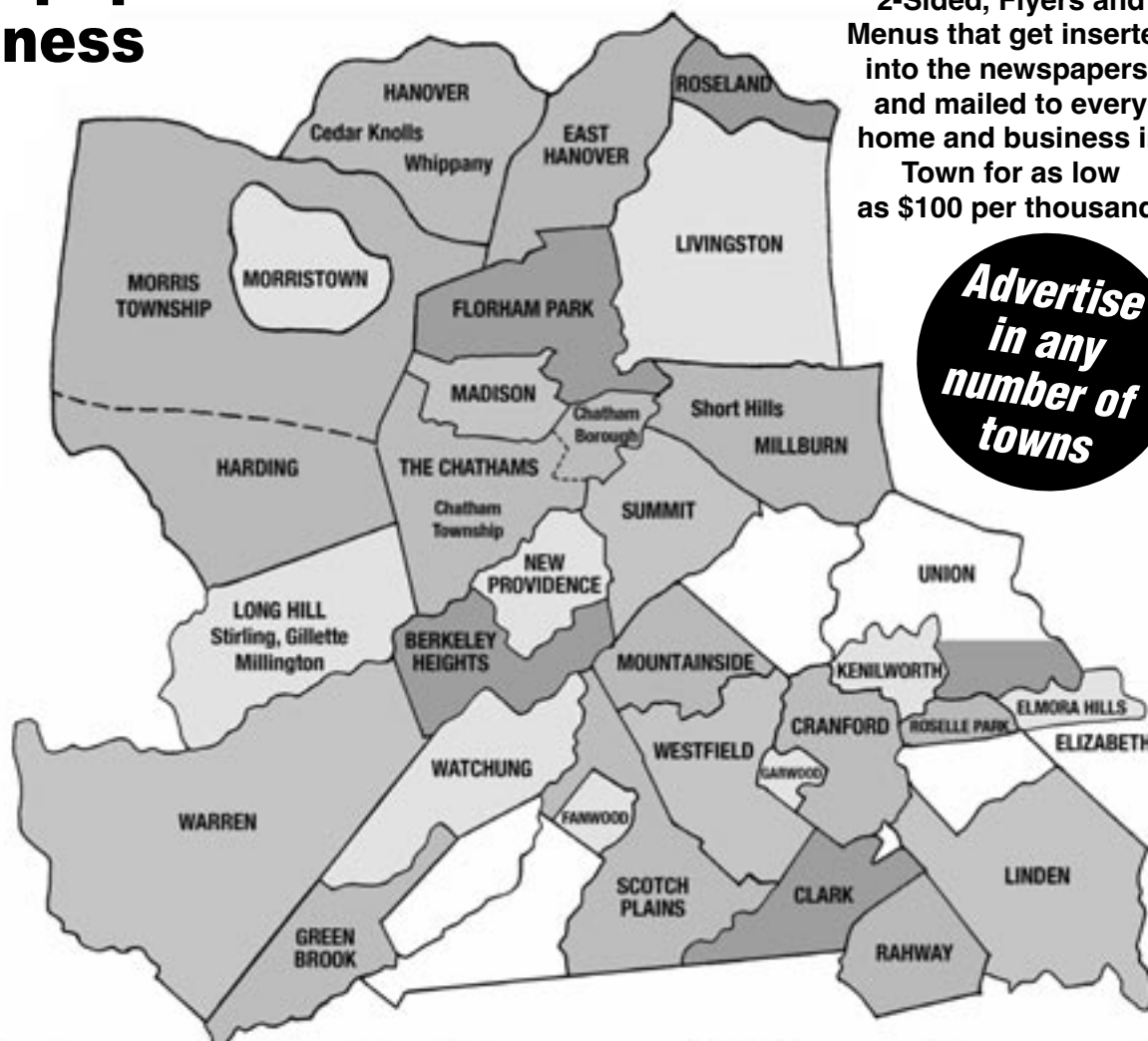
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