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Issue 92 • September 2025



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LT. REYNOLDS DEFENDING AMERICA UNDER THE SEA

Submitted by Megan Lemly, Navy Office of Community Outreach

Lt. James Reynolds, a native of Westfield, New Jersey, serves the U.S. Navy assigned to USS Scranton, homeported at Naval Base Point Loma. As a submariner, Reynolds is part of a small percentage of Navy personnel continuing a 125-year tradition of service under the sea to help ensure Americans' safety.

Reynolds graduated from Saint Peter's Prep in Jersey City in 2013. Additionally, Reynolds earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the United States Naval Academy and a master's degree in cyber security, operations and leadership from the University of San Diego.

Reynolds joined the Navy eight years ago. Today, Reynolds serves as a weapons officer.

"I have two older siblings who served," Reynolds said. "I joined to follow the example they set of serving the country."

Known as America's "Apex Predators!," the Navy's submarine force operates a large fleet of technologically advanced vessels. These submarines are capable of conducting rapid defensive and offensive operations around the world, in furtherance of U.S. national security.

USS Scranton (SSN 756) is the second U.S. Navy ship to be named for Scranton, Pennsylvania. Scranton is a Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine. Los Angeles-class submarines have been the backbone of the submarine force for the last 40 years, with approximately 23 now in commission. They are equipped with 12 Vertical Launch System tubes for firing Tomahawk cruise missiles.

Strategic deterrence is the nation's ultimate insurance program, according to Navy officials. As a member of the submarine force, Reynolds serves aboard a platform capable of bringing the fight to enemies in defense of America.

The U.S. Navy is celebrating its 250th birthday this year.

According to Navy officials, "America is a maritime nation and for 250 years, America's Warfighting Navy has sailed the globe in defense of freedom."

With 90% of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to recruiting and retaining talented people from across the rich fabric of America.

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(above) Lt. James Reynolds, from Westfield to defending America under the sea, one sailor's journey to USS Scranton

Courtesy Photo

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LANDSCAPE WITH BIRDS IN MIND

The Raptor Trust

How many Eastern Screech Owls do we currently have at The Raptor Trust? Apparently ALL of them! Most of these owlets were displaced after the trees that held their nests were cut down.

Cutting down trees and landscaping - especially during nesting season - can destroy active nests, scare off parents, and even injure adult birds during a critical time.

Most birds nest between March and August. Even small projects - like pruning shrubs or pulling out vines - can have a devastating result on a nest.

Here's how you can help:

- Delay major trimming until fall
- Check for nests before cutting or clearing

- Leave a few brush piles - birds and critters love them
 - Avoid pesticides and non-native plants
- These small steps can make all the difference for birds trying to raise their families nearby—or young birds in the first days of their lives.

The Raptor Trust is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization which provides free medical care to thousands of orphaned or injured birds each year. Our infirmary staff is available seven days a week during daylight hours to admit injured birds, but we must rely on the people who find them to bring them to us for care.

If you find a bird that needs help, please visit our website theraptortrust.org for instructions. We cannot do what we do without the kindness of many – including our visitors!



GarwoodTimes_{NJ}

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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

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REC CAMP WAS THE COOLEST PLACE TO BE THIS SUMMER

A huge thank you to Chief Pridy for organizing an exciting K9 demonstration at the Recreation Complex Summer Camp. Metro K9 Academy's head trainer and owner, Robert Gierla, brought his incredible dogs to showcase their skills — and the kids absolutely loved it.

They got to see the K9s in action, learn about their training, and even interact with these amazing working dogs. Special thanks to Robert Gierla for taking time out of his busy day to inspire and educate the next generation. And thank you to Chief Pridy, Sergeant

Czachorowski, and Captain Lewis for stepping into new leadership roles while continuing to show up for the community. Your dedication doesn't go unnoticed!

Garwood Recreation



(above) Garwood's Recreation Summer Rec Camp ran from June 23rd thru August 1st from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Sports & Recreation Complex. Courtesy Photo

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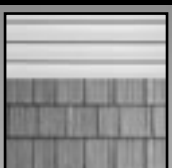
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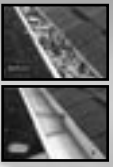
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GARWOOD LIBRARY SEPTEMBER EVENTS

CODE FORWARD

September 2, 9, 16, and 23 at 3:15 PM

Offers middle school students the opportunity to learn computer programming languages such as Java, Python, and more.

Division of Aging Staff

September 10 from 10 am to Noon

Union County Division of Aging Staff will be on hand to assist seniors (age 60+) or their caregivers with information on services, such as meal delivery, respite care, adult day care and support services for caregivers

Book Club

September 15 - at 1 pm

Join us for a lively discussion of James by Percival Everett. No registration required.

Adult Game Day

September 17 and 24 at 1 pm

Adult Game Day Socialize with other while playing Rummikub, Sorry, Uno, or cards. No registration required. Limit 12

Coding with Unruly Splats

September 18, 25 and October 2 and 9th

Unruly Splats transforms coding into an active engaging experience where kids stomp jump and play their way to learning essential STEM skills. Registration is required limit 10, For children in 2nd grade through 5th grade.



(above) Zootopia visited the Garwood Library this summer.

Courtesy Photo



(above) Congratulations to Bryson. He was the grand prize winner of this summer's Color Our World 2025 Reading Challenge. His ticket was pulled from thousands. He chose 4 tickets to Great Adventure as his prize.



Celebrating 100 Years Of God's Grace 1925-2025
Redeemer Lutheran Church
229 Cowperthwaite Place Westfield, NJ 07090
Centennial Year Fundraiser Information
Redeemer Lutheran Church is honoring its centennial by supporting the



Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad

A 100% volunteer-run organization that depends on donations to provide lifesaving care. As Christians, we are called to look after our neighbors, join us in showing love and support to those who serve our community in times of crisis.

Here's How You Can Support This Milestone Fundraiser:

- **By Mail:** Send a check made payable to **Redeemer Lutheran Church**, with "Westfield Rescue Squad" written in the memo line.



Mail to:
Redeemer Lutheran Church
229 Cowperthwaite Place
Westfield, NJ 07090

Online: Scan the QR code to donate directly through the Rescue Squad's Square link.

For more detailed information about the rescue squad and their specific needs, please visit our website at www.redeemervestfield.com.

50TH REUNION FOR CLASS OF 1975
Battin, Thomas Jefferson & Edison High Schools
in Elizabeth NJ
Saturday, October 11, 2025
from 6-11pm
Hilton Garden Inn
Route 22 West in Springfield.
The cost is \$145.00 per person - guests invited. Donations are also welcomed.
Interested parties should contact
Linda Mallozzi by email at lemlaw@comcast.net.



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MULTICULTURAL MUSIC FESTIVAL COMES TO ROSELLE PARK

The Multicultural and Heritage Music Festival will bring a wide range of ethnic entertainment to Roselle Park on Saturday, September 27. Presented by the Borough of Roselle Park, Diversity and Inclusion Committee and Greg Johnson Civic Association, the festival will run from noon to 5 pm at Michael Mauri Park on Chestnut Street. It will feature food trucks, a CPR information station, local displays including an exhibit highlighting Roselle Park's historic railroad system and performers celebrating diverse styles of music from around the world.

3:45 PM -- Afro Dominicano. Headlining the festival is a Latin fusion band performing what is called AfroCaribbean soul. Its traditional folkloric roots music from the Dominican Republic incorporates Afro beats, reggae, calypso, samba, funk, punk rock and other Caribbean rhythms. In addition to original songs, they include covers such as Bill Withers' Just the Two of Us and Amy Winehouse's Valerie. The band, acclaimed worldwide, features vocal, guitar, bass, accordion, drum, conga, guira and tambora.

2:20 PM – Verdict. If you like to dance and love reggae and soca music, Verdict is the band for you. Verdict is fronted by vocalist and keyboardist Roland from Monserrat, whose enthusiasm is infectious as he leads the audience to dance along with him as he plays. Guitarist Raga comes from Trinidad-Tobago and bassist

Marcellino from Panama. Johnny Youth is the band leader and drummer. Their story continues as does their unending quest to play the transcendent jam, to create the perfect moment, to revel in shared experience with their fans.

1:00 PM – Pradhanica. A contemporary Kathak dance production, Pradhanica, which means "female leader," is led by Kathak dancer, choreographer and percussionist Jin Won. Its compositions use Indian rhythms for the African djembe, Spanish cajon, with Indian sitar and tabla. Exploring emotions of anger, joy, compassion and peace, Pradhanica shows the pure rhythmic aspect and emotional resonance of the dance form.

12:00 PM – Chris Bolger and the Jamesons Gang. This North Jersey-based quartet has been bringing Gaelic-flavored rock, folk and ballads to pubs, festivals and other events in New York and New Jersey for many years. In addition to guitar, bass and drums, they incorporate Irish music staples such as the bouzouki, mandolin and banjo to provide a crowd-pleasing mix of traditional and modern tunes.

Another highlight of the festival will be an exhibit showcasing the three railroads that nurtured Roselle Park's growth into a vibrant community. The Tristate Railway Historical Society is the curator of this display.



(above) Afro Dominicano



(above) Verdict



(above) Pradhanica



(above) Chris Bolger and the Jamesons Gang

SEPTEMBER 11TH REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

The Borough of Garwood will host a 9/11 Remembrance Service on Thursday, September 11th at 7 p.m. at Borough Hall, located at 403 South Avenue in Garwood. The event will honor all those who lost their lives in the September 11th attacks including family, friends, first responders, and all who were affected by this tragedy. For more information, please contact the Borough of Garwood at 908-789-0710 or by email at garwood@garwood.org.

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ROSELLE PARK MULTICULTURAL AND HERITAGE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 27.2025

Michael Mauri Park on Chestnut Street



4 Hot bands!

3:45 PM - Afro Dominicano

2:20 PM - Verdict

1:00 PM - Pradhanica

**12:00 PM - Chris Bolger
& Jamesons Gang**

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EARTH, WIND AND FIRE TRIBUTE BAND - OCT 4

The Sieminski Theater continues Act 2 of their 2025 season with an incredible, high-energy tribute to the iconic band, Earth, Wind and Fire on Saturday October 4 at 7:30pm.

The iconic musical group EARTH, WIND & FIRE achieved significant commercial success and critical acclaim, becoming one of the best-selling music artists of all time with over 90 million records sold worldwide. They are also highly regarded for their innovative sound and lasting influence on popular music. They scored eight number-one hits and released over 23 albums, with several reaching double-platinum status. They were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Vocal Group Hall of Fame, and the NAACP Image Award Hall of Fame. They also received nine Grammy Awards, including a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012.

EARTH, WIND AND FIRE

The Earth, Wind and Fire Tribute Band share a great love and appreciation for the style and musicianship of the premier band of the 70's, 80's and 90's! This incredibly talented band is based in Maryland and tours the country as they pay homage to one of the greatest bands of its era, bringing to life the magical R&B, funk and jazz sounds that continue to inspire and influence even the contemporary entertainers of today.

From the funky and "earthy" grooves to the sophisticated and complex lyrics and orchestrations, the Earth, Wind and Fire Tribute Band continues to keep the music alive so that everyone will know the elements... Earth, Wind and Fire, will live forever! They will be performing all the hits including Got To Get You Into My Life, Sing a Song, Shinning Star, Boogie Wonderland, Let's Groove, That's The Way of the World, September, and many more! They will have you on your feet and singing along to all the iconic hits!

Don't miss this opportunity to relive the musical hits of the 70's, 80's and 90's with this incredible tribute.

For tickets visit sieminskitheater.org or call the box office at 908-850-3892

DREW UNIVERSITY CONCERT HALL: MUSIC, MEMORIES & LAUGHS

SEPTEMBER LINEUP Six Nights of Legends and Laughter

September 13

The Music of John Mellencamp

Human Wheels delivers a high-energy tribute featuring hits like "Pink Houses" and "Jack & Diane."

September 19

An Allman Brothers Band Tribute

A Brother's Revival, led by former bassist David "Rook" Goldflies, brings "Midnight Rider" and "Ramblin' Man" roaring back to life.

September 20

A True Stevie Nicks Experience

Gypsy, featuring Sabrina Staats, channels the haunting voice and mystical style of the rock icon in a spellbinding tribute.

September 26

Classic Lynyrd Skynyrd Live

Southern Steel relives the golden age of Southern rock with pitch-perfect renditions of Skynyrd classics.

September 27

Rodney Norman Live

Viral comedian and TikTok favorite brings his offbeat wisdom and deadpan hilarity to the stage.

September 28

The Music of the Beach Boys

Lights Out: The Jersey Beach Boys blend harmony-rich sunshine with Jersey swagger in a nostalgic mashup.

SENIOR-FRIENDLY & GROUP-READY

From doo-wop and Sinatra to holiday favorites, this series is ideal for senior centers, Lifestyle Directors, and group outings. Accessible seating, early start times, and familiar favorites make planning easy and rewarding.

OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

October 5

Afternoon of Doo Wop:

Featuring The Chimes, Emil Stucchio & The Classics, and The Fireflies

October 11

Sinatra: A Man & His Music

Michael Martocci and Brandon Tomasello

October 18

A Frankie Valli & Four Seasons Tribute

The Jersey Four featuring Gerry Polci

October 24

Clint Holmes

"Up on the Roof!"

October 25

The Ultimate Led Zeppelin Experience

Four Sticks

November 1

The Music of Bruce Springsteen

The BSTREETBAND

November 14

The Cyrkle & Billy J Kramer

Memories of the Hits, The 60's & The Beatles

November 15

Your 80's Request Show

Fan Favorites Live with 1989

November 21

Motor City Revue

Hitsville to Soulsville

November 29

Christmas with The Duprees and Anthony Duke Claus

TICKETS AND INFO

Browse the full lineup and reserve seats at GDPresents.SimpleTix.com or visit Drew University's Upcoming Events page. For group packages and questions email gdptix@gmail.com.

**EARTH, WIND & FIRE
TRIBUTE BAND**
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4th @ 7:30



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sieminskitheater.org or call 908-580-3892

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The Jersey Beach Boys	THE CYRKLE & BILLY J KRAMER	YOUR 80'S REQUEST SHOW <i>Clint Holmes</i> Let's Go! Up On The Roof	THE JERSEY FOUR FEAT. GERRY POLCI
elusive SKYNYRD SOUTHERN STEEL	Doo Wop Gold	COMEDIAN RODNEY NORMAN	Christmas with The Duprees
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GREEK FESTIVAL CELEBRATES CULTURE, AND COMMUNITY IN UNION

Get ready to immerse yourself in the vibrant sights, sounds, and flavors of Greece at the 48th Annual Greek Festival, taking place at the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Union, NJ. This eagerly anticipated event, the largest and longest-running Greek Festival in Union County, will delight attendees from September 4th to September 7th, 2025, with a weekend of cultural immersion, culinary delights, and family-friendly entertainment.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- **Authentic Greek Cuisine:** Indulge in a feast of traditional Greek dishes including souvlaki, moussaka, pastitsio, spanakopita, loukoumades, and baklava, all freshly prepared on premises with the finest ingredients reminiscent of your Greek Yia-yia's cooking.
- **Live Music and Dance:** Experience the lively rhythms of Greece with live music and dance performances featuring traditional Greek folk

music and dances such as syrtaki and kalamatiano.

- **Artisan Marketplace:** Browse through a bustling marketplace offering handmade jewelry, clothing, and imported goods from Greece.

EVENT DETAILS:

- **Dates:** September 4th to September 7th, 2025
- **Location:** St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 721 Rahway Ave, Union, NJ 07083 (Free Parking in neighboring lots)
- **Admission:** \$2 general admission; a portion of admission proceeds benefit local Union Township/Union County charities "We are thrilled to invite the community to join us for our 47th Annual Greek Festival," said Betty Spiropoulos, Festival Committee Co-Chair "This event is a celebration of our Greek heritage and a wonderful opportunity for everyone to experience the warmth and hospitality of our culture."

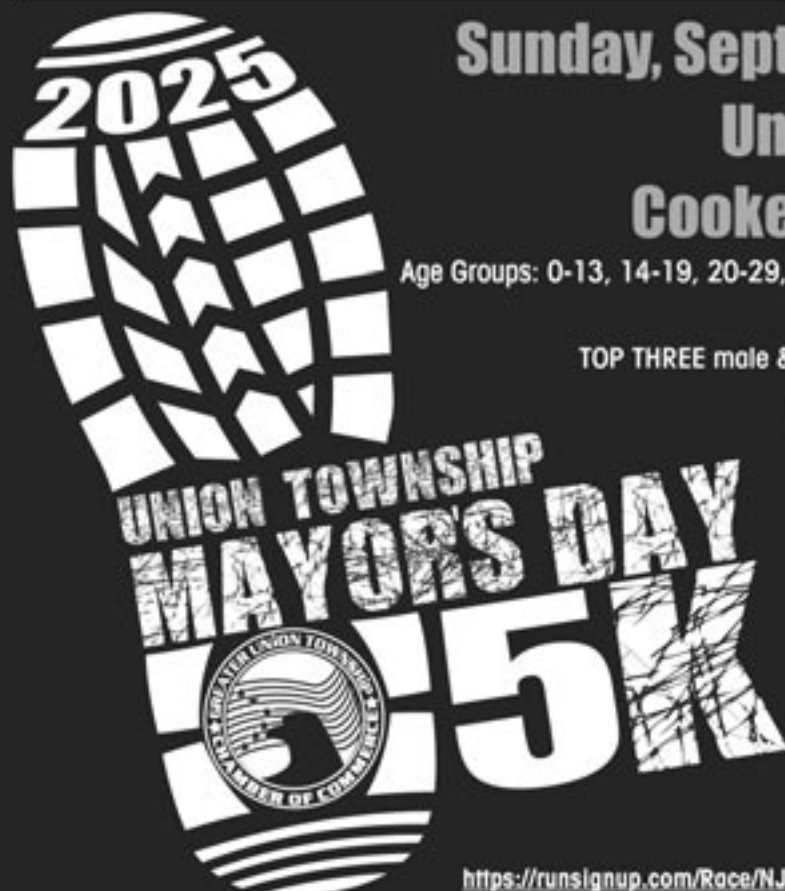
ABOUT THE ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH:

Established in 1928 in Newark and relocated to Union in 1984, the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church has been a cornerstone of the Union Township community, celebrated for its rich diversity and dedication to promoting Greek culture, faith, and community spirit. Over the years, it has warmly welcomed people from various backgrounds, fostering an inclusive environment that embraces cultural diversity and unity among its members.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates and behind-the-scenes looks at the festival: @stdemetriosunion

Don't miss out on this unforgettable celebration of Greek culture and community! Join us at the 48th Annual Greek Festival in Union, NJ, for a weekend filled with delicious food, vibrant music, and family-friendly fun.



Sunday, September 28, 2025
Union High School
Cooke Drive, Union, NJ

Age Groups: 0-13, 14-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+
 PLUS! Prizes will be awarded to the
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Check-In: 7:45am
Run Starts: 9am

Register Here:

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<https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/UnionTownship/MayorsDay5KRunWalk>

A portion of this year's proceeds
will go to help a local family in need.
(See reverse side for details)



ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
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SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2025

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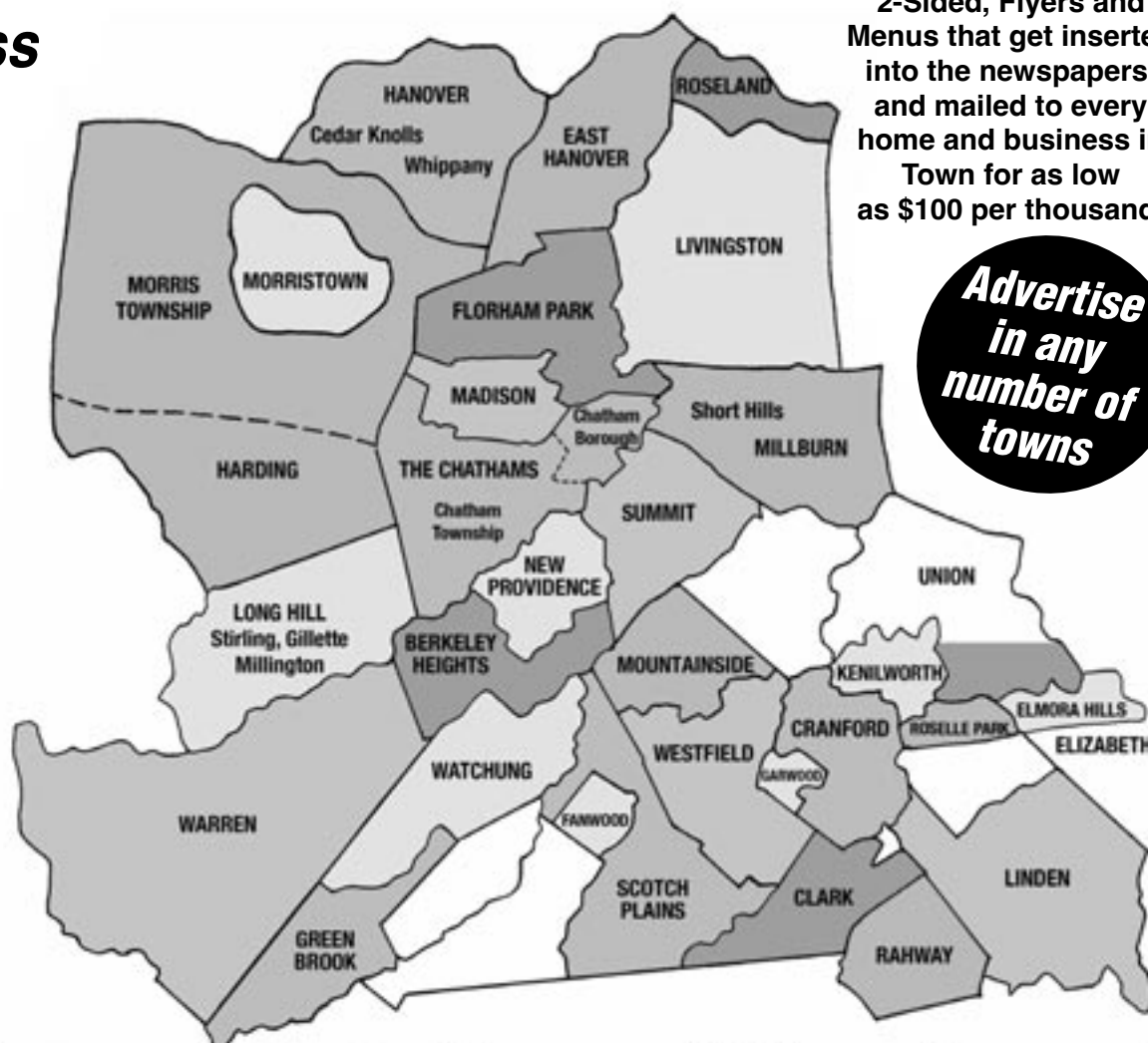
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THE SHARK IS BROKEN AT CDC THEATRE IN OCT

It has been fifty years since *Jaws* became a summer blockbuster and now you can dive back into the waters surrounding Amity Island with *The Shark Is Broken*, a behind the scenes comedy about the making of a classic.

Few films have cast a shadow as long or as deep over the cinematic landscape as *Jaws*. Released in 1975 and directed by a 27-year-old Steven Spielberg, the movie is widely hailed as the first true summer blockbuster. *Jaws* was adapted from Peter Benchley's 1974 novel of the same name, which quickly became a bestseller. Producers Richard Zanuck and David Brown purchased the film rights before the book was even published, sensing its cinematic potential. They took a gamble by hiring Spielberg, who had previously directed only one theatrical film (*The Sugarland Express*), but whose TV thriller *Duel* had demonstrated a knack for tension and suspense.

The blend of suspense, horror, and adventure in *Jaws* captivated audiences and transformed the way movies were made, marketed, and even watched. The film's story of a seaside community terrorized by a rogue great white shark is now etched into the DNA of pop culture—its iconic score, menacing antagonist, and unforgettable lines are recognized the world over. But the story behind the making of *Jaws* is nearly as legendary as the film itself and has gone down in film history as one of Hollywood's most harrowing shoots.

Filming took place on location on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, from May to October 1974. Spielberg insisted on shooting at sea to capture realism, but this choice brought logistical nightmares. The mechanical shark nicknamed

"Bruce," malfunctioned so frequently that the crew had to work around it, often implying the shark's presence rather than showing it. This heightened the suspense and forced Spielberg to rely on sound, suggestion, and clever editing. Rough weather routinely delayed filming, causing tempers to fray and the schedule to spiral out of control. Budget overruns caused the original \$4 million budget to balloon to almost \$9 million by the time filming ended. Despite, or because of, these challenges, Spielberg and his team persisted, capturing moments of genuine tension, humor, and camaraderie that give the film its enduring vitality.

Set adrift on the Atlantic in 1974, *The Shark Is Broken* plunges audiences into the hilarious and chaotic backstage world of the filming of *Jaws*. The play unfolds aboard the cramped, weather-beaten boat where the lead actors, theatre veteran Robert Shaw and young Hollywood hotshots Richard Dreyfuss and Roy Scheider, are entirely at the mercy of foul weather and their faulty mechanical co-star. As tempers simmer and egos collide, secrets are spilled and the boundaries between fiction and reality blur revealing the real drama lurking beneath the surface. With sharp wit and affectionate satire, *The Shark Is Broken* offers a rare glimpse into the stormy process behind Hollywood's original modern summer blockbuster.

The Shark Is Broken will be presented at CDC Theatre, 78 Winans Ave. in Cranford, NJ on Fridays and Saturdays October 10, 11, 17 and 18 at 8 p.m., with matinees on Sunday October 12 and 19 at 2 p.m. Tickets and additional information can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org.

THE GYPSY SPIRIT - NJ FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

Season-Opening Concert Features International Talent and Folk-Inspired Melodies



The New Jersey Festival Orchestra raises the curtain on its highly anticipated 2025–2026 season with *The Gypsy Spirit*, a vivid and exhilarating journey through folk traditions reimagined in symphonic splendor. Under the baton of Maestro David Wroe, this electrifying program will be performed on Saturday, September 27 at 7:00 PM at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield and Sunday, September 28 at 2:30 PM at the Sieminski Theater at Fellowship Village in Basking Ridge.

Bringing together rich musical traditions of Eastern and Southern Europe, *The Gypsy Spirit* features works by Janáček, Bruch, and de Falla, performed by NJFO in collaboration with special guests Imperial Brass (Westfield performance only) and internationally acclaimed Armenian violinist Anush Nikoghosyan.

The evening begins with Janáček's *Sinfonietta*, a bold and ceremonial tribute to Czech national pride, featuring dazzling brass fanfares performed with Imperial Brass. This rousing work will be heard only at the Westfield concert.


"Imperial Brass is very excited to be partnering with our Westfield neighbors, the New Jersey Festival Orchestra, in our first collaboration with this exceptional ensemble," reports Imperial Brass. "[We] will be featured on Janáček's inspiring *Sinfonietta*, which opens with one of the great brass fanfares of the orchestral repertoire. Imperial Brass performs regularly at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield and throughout the state." For more information, please visit imperialbrass.org.

Next, Anush Nikoghosyan brings warmth, fire, and virtuosity to Bruch's *Violin Concerto No. 1*, a romantic masterwork beloved for its soaring melodies and emotional power.

The concert concludes with de Falla's *Three-Cornered Hat Suites Nos. 1 & 2*, an exuberant orchestral portrait bursting with Flamenco rhythm, Andalusian color, and theatrical flair.

"The music in *The Gypsy Spirit* is a perfect marriage between the popular and classical idioms," said NJFO Music Director David Wroe. "I'm also excited to be working with Imperial Brass; collaborating with the community is an essential part of our mission."

Concertgoers are invited to deepen their experience with a pre-concert lecture by Dr. Yifei Xu, NJFO's Operations Director and renowned pianist, at 6:00 PM in Westfield and 1:30 PM in Basking Ridge.



Oct. 10, 11, 17, 18 8pm
Oct. 12, 19 2pm

CDC Theatre
78 Winans Ave
Cranford, NJ
cdctheatre.org
908-276-7611

THE


SHARK

IS

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