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## ACES BLUE GOES BACK-TO-BACK AS SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS

*Submitted by Jeremy Alarva*

Aces Blue has done it again. With poise, power, and plenty of late-inning heroics, the team successfully defended their 2024 Summer title to become repeat champions of the Mountainside Men's Summer Softball League.

Led by their fearless captain and local law enforcement officer Andrew Yasinski, the championship roster's chemistry, consistency, and clutch performances powered them through a competitive 10-team league featuring over 150 local residents.

Aces Blue entered the postseason as the #1 seed after a stellar 17-3 regular season. But the playoffs brought no easy wins - just grit, pressure moments, and unforgettable plays.

Their opening matchup was a Comeback against Aces Silver. Silver struck early, highlighted by a Home Run blast over the left field fence and into the ivy from Matt Murowski. Down late in the game, Blue rallied in the 6th. Key hits from Tommy Talty, Andrew Yasinski, and Mike Patricco brought the game within reach. Then Jeff Paszkewicz delivered a clutch triple to deep left, putting Blue ahead 4-3. A sac fly by Kevin DelleDonne capped the inning.

In the top of the 7th, with two runners on and no outs, Matt Miranda made a spectacular catch in deep left field to stop Silver's momentum.

In round 2, Blue rallied in bottom 7th against Aces Gold for back to back come back Wins.

Aces Gold was led by Dave King and anchored by the pitching of Adam Nord.

Gold led 4-3 heading into the bottom of the 7th, but Blue once again rose to the occasion. A single by Yasinski, another by Patricco, and a strategic intentional walk to Jeffrey Carrier set the stage for Evan Shanahan. Shanahan steps to the plate, with his entire family and teammates rooting him on, delivered a clutch screaming line drive over the center fielders head for a walk-off double securing the victory and sending Blue to the next round.

In the next round, Blue squared off against Aces Red, captained by Matt Deanna. The bats came alive, and the team notched a solid 8-3 victory, with home runs from Kevin DelleDonne



(above, back, l-r) Jeffrey Carrier, Kevin DelleDonne, Andrew Yasinski, Mike Patricco, Jeff Paszkewicz, Evan Shanahan. (front, l-r) Matt Molski, Carlos Cabrera, Tommy Talty, Jeremy Alarva, Nick "The Stick" Barbera, Al Pineda. (missing) Matt Miranda, Greg Ricciardi, Anthony DelleDonne and Dan Doyle.

Courtesy Photo

and Mike Patricco leading the way.

The Championship Game against Aces Red was a true battle. Red struck first with a lead off double from Rob DiGiacomo. Dan Clark fires a single to left field scoring DiGiacomo to give Red the early lead.

PJ Jennings ripped a line drive to deep center field. Red pushed for another run, but center fielder Jeffrey Carrier fielded it cleanly and fired a strike to the cut off, Tommy Talty, who relayed a laser to catcher Kevin DelleDonne. A bang-bang play at the plate ended with DelleDonne slapping on the tag, and umpire Chris delivering his classic punch out call.

Red's defense held Aces Blue to 2 run across two innings, but the tides turned in the bottom of the third. Nick Barbera sparked the offense with a leadoff single, igniting a rally. Timely hits from Talty, Paszkewicz, and Kevin DelleDonne pushed Blue ahead.

By the fifth, Aces Blue held a 4-2 lead, but Red wasn't done yet. With runners on second and third, the pressure was mounting. Pitcher Jeremy Alarva, always calm under pressure, delivers a perfectly placed pitch that clips the front edge of the plate - called strike 3 to end the inning! In the final inning Alarva stayed poised and delivered 2 more strikeouts, helping Aces Blue clinch the championship with a 6-2 victory!

Congratulations to all Aces Teams on another amazing season and thank you to all the families who come out to support this league and our amazing town.

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**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

National Night Out, a national community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships, was held on Tuesday, August 5th in Mountainside. The free event was hosted by the Mountainside Police Department and featured giveaways, food, drinks, and entertainment. Members of the Police Department, along with community partners, were on hand to interact with the community. National Night Out culminates annually on the first Tuesday in August. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances. For more information visit [natw.org](http://natw.org).



**OPERAS ON FILM  
ANNOUNCES 12TH  
SEASON LINEUP**

*Mountainside Rescue Squad*

Operas on Film, now in its 12th season is held at the Mountainside Rescue Squad. The selected films from famous opera houses throughout the world, will be played with subtitles on the second Friday of the month at 1 p.m. hosted by Mena Clemson and Norma Huber, Jr. It is free to attend. Whether you are an opera buff or an opera neophyte, you are invited to join us for the following films:

**Sept.12th, SAMSON & DALILA**

starring Placido Domingo,  
San Francisco Opera 1981, 117 mins

**October 10th, THE MERRY WIDOW**

Seefestspiele Morbisch,  
2005, comedy, 150 mins

**November 14th, THAIS**

starring Renee Fleming,  
Metropolitan Opera 2008, 138 mins

**December 12th, I LOMBARDI**

starring Jose Carreras LaScala, 1984, 127 mins

The Mountainside Rescue Squad is in need of volunteers! No experience is needed, we pay for all training, and college scholarships are available. If you are 18 or older and are a Mountainside resident interested in joining or have questions please contact us at [membership@ems22.com](mailto:membership@ems22.com) or call our building at 908- 233-6338.

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# SEPTEMBER AUDITION FOR NOVEMBER SHOW

## Hickory Tree Chorus

The award-winning Hickory Tree Chorus will hold auditions on September 17, 2025, at the Shrine of Saint Joseph in Stirling, New Jersey, for participation in their November 15th 2:00 PM show, “Thank You for the Music: A Celebration in Song”.

Auditions will take place from 6:30 to 7:00 pm. Participants are asked to perform an a cappella song of their choice. Following the auditions, they are invited to stay for an additional hour to engage in vocal skill activities, observe chorus practices, and enjoy singing demonstrations.

The performance will be held at The Concert Hall at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. Recognized for its beautiful design and exceptional acoustics, the 433-seat Concert Hall has been sought after by major artists for both recording and performance since its opening in 2005.

The Hickory Tree Chorus has consistently demonstrated its exceptional talent, winning first place in Division A at the Greater NY/NJ Sweet Adelines Region #15 competition in Albany, New York in both 2024 and 2025. Their top-scoring performance at the 2025 competition earned them a coveted spot in the Harmony Classic at the 78th Annual Sweet Adelines International Convention & Competition in October 2026, which will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio.

Master Director Carolyn Schmidt, a member

of Hickory Tree Chorus since 1974 and musical director since 1994, has been instrumental in the chorus’s success. She is one of only five active Master Music Arrangers in Sweet Adelines International and arranges a significant portion of Hickory Tree’s unique repertoire. In addition to her role as director, she serves as a Sweet Adelines International Approved Music Category Judge.

Hickory Tree Chorus is dedicated to advancing

the musical art form of four-part a cappella harmony sung in the barbershop style. As a chapter of Sweet Adelines International Organization, it has been entertaining audiences in the New Jersey area since 1968. They believe every voice counts and encourage women singers of all ages, colors, ethnicities, and orientations to visit us and share our joy of music.

Visit [hickorytreechorus.org](http://hickorytreechorus.org) for more information or call 908-377-1399.



(above) Hickory Tree Chorus, a women's a cappella group, announces September Auditions for a November Show.

Courtesy photo

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(above) Plant experts from the Mountainside Restoration Committee visit the grower to hand-select mums to be sold at their Annual Fall Mum & Plant sale held at Mountainside’s Deacon Andrew Hetfield House on Thursday, Sept. 11 through Saturday, Sept. 13 from 9am – 4pm (while supplies last).

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## LEVI CORY HOUSE VILLAGE SHOP OPENS

The Village Shop located in the Mountainside Restoration Committee’s Levi Cory House will be open on most Saturdays from 11am-3pm beginning Saturday, September 6, 2025. Additional hours will be announced prior to the December holidays.

The circa 1818 Levi Cory House, which was moved to Constitution Plaza nine years ago, was originally located at the corner of New Providence Road and Mountain Avenue. The house was the location of the first Children’s Country Home, during the 1890s, before expanding to its current location as the Children’s Specialized Hospital. After years of repair, renovation and restoration, the Levi Cory House now opens as a Museum for Children’s Interests and the Village Shop. Recently, a shaded patio was added to the rear of the house, a second porch was added as there was one on the original house, and plumbing and a rest room have been added thanks, in part, to funds from the Watts Mountainside Community Foundation.

The Village Shop serves as a fund raiser for the continued restoration and maintenance of the Levi Cory House and maintenance of the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House. The Shop has been restocked with many new items for the home and for gift-giving - home décor, jewelry, antique and vintage items, furniture pieces and many

interesting items and curiosities. Stop by to browse and you may find something for yourself or for gift-giving. Purchases benefit the Mountainside Restoration Committee.

The Levi Cory House and Deacon Andrew Hetfield House are located at Constitution Plaza (Watchung Ave., off Birch Hill Rd.) adjacent to the Mountainside Library. The Mountainside Restoration Committee is a 501(c)(3) charity and a committee of volunteers whose purpose is to maintain the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House, restore and maintain the Levi Cory House and collect and save historical Mountainside information and items from destruction. For further information, please call (908)233-3135; or, go to: [www.mountainsidehistory.org](http://www.mountainsidehistory.org)



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## PROJECT GRADUATION 2025 WRAP UP

### *Project Graduation Committee*

The 2025 Project Graduation was a HUGE success! Over 175 of our Class of 2025 seniors enjoyed a safe fun filled night at The Funplex in East Hanover NJ. The event ran from 9:15 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.

A team of 15 volunteers, led by Annie Basile, helped with registration and bag check at GL before our seniors departed.

Our wonderful event chaperones loaded 5 busses with our seniors and traveled to and from Funplex. Without them this event would not have been possible. These amazing volunteers were: Tracy Gardner, Jeanie Ruban, Michelle Blum, Janice Kelly, Kate Motz, Portia Villanueva, Christa Cerullo, Joan McLaughlin, Carla Randig, and Tony and Christina Knuth.

There was a variety of food and activities for all to enjoy including Splashplex Water Slides, Video Games, Reverse Time rides, Drop Tower rides, Bumper cars, Skyscraper ride, Super Twister, XD Dark rides, Bowling, Go Karts, and Laser Tag. Beach towels and gift card prizes were given out at the event.

Mountainside EMTs Domenico Deluca, Maya Dinic, and Joey Grimaldi were on hand for the entire evening, as well as, Shaun Bendyk (Mountainside Police) and Don Maxwell (Berkeley Heights Police). A huge shout out to our EMTs and Police Officers!

A huge thank you to the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, Mr. Nixon, Mrs. Bartlett, Mr. Dagounis, and the all of GL team. Project Graduation would also like to thank all the local businesses for their generous donations (including 15 dozen donuts and 4 boxes of munchkins donated from the Berkeley Heights Dunkin' Donuts located on Springfield Ave.), as well as First Group and their phenomenal team of busses and drivers.

### **GET INVOLVED!**

Freshmen, Sophomore, and Junior parents, please consider getting involved with Project Graduation in the future!

Project Graduation includes many activities throughout the year including a Senior Breakfast in the fall, Prom Fashion Show in February, a Senior Picnic on the day of prom, and finally the Project Graduation event. The Project Graduation committee is also responsible for seat and parking spot raffles for graduation, the sale of the graduation lawn signs, as well as, the sale of the Highlander Way pavers.

If you would like to get involved please reach out to our new PG Coordinators, Catia Salerno and Jovan Siconolfi through [www.bhpsnj.org](http://www.bhpsnj.org).



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# PROJECT GRADUATION 2025 PHOTO ALBUM



# SMALL BUSINESS MENTORING HELP MILITARY VETERANS SUCCEED

## SCORE Central Jersey

During National Military Appreciation Month and beyond, SCORE mentors offer resources for veterans to start and grow their entrepreneurial enterprises.

Veterans’ training, resolve and fortitude to overcome challenges make them the ideal entrepreneur. They soar as small business owners. According to research, 80 percent of the 1.7 million veteran-owned business owners consider themselves successful. The small business five-year survival rate for veterans is double that of the non-veteran population.

Data from the U.S. Small Business Administration has shown that small business owners with an established mentor have twice the success rate – 70 percent versus 35 percent – as those who do not have a mentor.

In conjunction with National Military Appreciation Month in May, SCORE, a national nonprofit organization that assists small businesses, has developed specific resources for use by its 10,000 mentors nationally in mentoring veterans.

The SCORE Veterans Small Business Resource Guide features veterans-specific resources to offer insight on developing a business plan, securing funding, starting a business, buying an existing business, buying a franchise, connecting with one of SCORE’s volunteer mentors, and gaining a better understanding of business through webinars and



(above) Since 1964, SCORE has helped more than 17 million entrepreneurs start, grow or successfully exit a business. SCORE’s 10,000 volunteers provide free, expert mentoring, resources and education in all 50 U.S. states and territories. Visit SCORE at [score.org](http://score.org).

Courtesy photo

workshops.

"Volunteering at SCORE is my way of showing appreciation to those who helped and guided me during my career while sharing my background and experience to help entrepreneurs succeed," said SCORE Mid-Atlantic Regional Vice President Ed Coleman. "While I enjoy working with all SCORE clients, as a U.S. Army veteran, I particularly enjoy working with veterans to translate their military experience into entrepreneurship. Helping clients realize their

dreams is very gratifying and the essence of the SCORE mission."

SCORE Central Jersey Chapter Chair Nancy Verduin said mentors continually expand their knowledge base to better assist veterans on their entrepreneurial journey.

"Military transitioning from active duty have different needs than civilians in terms of starting a business," said Verduin. "It's wonderful to have veterans' resources at our volunteers' fingertips to aid in mentoring our service men and women."

Veterans account for about 10 percent of SCORE’s client base. Veterans own 10 percent of small businesses and 14 percent of franchises. Since franchisors have a defined plan of what the business should entail, veterans represent the perfect franchisee given their ability to effectively execute plans as intended.

Nationally, veterans own nearly 2 million businesses, employing more than 5 million Americans, and generating more than \$1 trillion in annual income. Of those, 40 percent of veteran-owned businesses generate more than \$500,000 in annual revenue.

To learn more about SCORE, request a mentor or volunteer to be one, visit [score.org](http://score.org).

Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions and/or recommendations expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA.



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Mail to:  
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**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.redeemerwestfield.com](http://www.redeemerwestfield.com).

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# Attention Men & Women Over 40

## HOW TO LOSE 10-30 LBS. IN 6 WEEKS... AND KEEP IT OFF!

Give a little Berkeley Heights Personal Training Gym 6 weeks to help you feel stronger, leaner, healthier and filled with energy!

**"I NEVER LIKED GOING TO THE GYM... BUT NOW I'M HOOKED!"**



**TRISH** - I never liked going to the gym...until I joined Gabriele Fitness! The very knowledgeable and professional trainers make sure that every person receives personalized attention and feedback in class. I never expected to achieve such great results and it's all due to Gabriele Fitness. But now I'm hooked! They are the best!

**"I WAS WORRIED ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO KEEP UP"**



**STEVE** - My results were both amazing and motivating! It's such a welcoming space. I was worried about not being able to keep up. But that's never been an issue at all. I've never felt rushed even if my pace was slower than those around me. I really love this aspect of the experience. I'm so glad to be part of this community.

**"LIFE CHANGING FOR ME."**



**DENNIS** - Life changing for me. Great and entertaining trainers. Can't say enough positive things about GFP. Even now, in 2024, the experience at GFP continues to get better. The trainers do a great job helping each and everyone achieve their goals and consistently improve. The gym members support each other. I look forward to every session.

**"I'M NOT SCARED TO WEAR SHORTS ANYMORE."**



**JEN** - I felt completely disconnected from the strong person I used to be. From the very first interaction, I could tell Gabriele Fitness was different. I'm not exaggerating when I say I owe my life to this gym and these people. My clothes fit again. I'm not scared to wear shorts anymore. I smile in photos. I know how to take care of myself. My blood work is amazing. I'm not hiding anymore. I'm happy again.

### GET BACK TO A FITNESS ROUTINE STARTING OCT 6TH! (ONLY 20 SPOTS AVAILABLE)

**Here is what you get in this Challenge:**

- **Personal Training:** 20 small group personal training sessions so you can work out with a coach to guide you every step of the way, which means you're essentially guaranteed to feel fit, strong and healthy.
- **Extreme Accountability:** Get helicopter-like attention from your GFP Coaches so you can never fall off track, which means you'll finally get the energy and health you've been missing.
- **Personalized and Simple Nutrition Help:** Our coaches are going to sit down with you to map out everything so you know exactly what to eat and when to eat it, which means you'll start making progress immediately.
- **Unlimited Cardio Sessions:** You'll get Unlimited Access to our 'Fat Blast' Sessions that will help get your body buzzing and your blood flowing to help shed those calories and fat!
- **Free Goal and Nutrition Seminar:** We will kick off the challenge with a seminar on setting proper goals as well as helping you create exactly what your nutrition should realistically look including what to eat to get lean, how much, and how to fit in foods you love along the way!

**TO INQUIRE ABOUT COST & AVAILABILITY SCAN HERE!**



**ABOUT GABRIELE FITNESS:** Gabriele Fitness is a personal training gym that helps people lose weight, gain energy, and live a more active life without the use of fad diets or workouts that beat up their body. They've helped thousands of men and women in the Berkeley Heights Area to transform their health and life for the past 17 years. As leaders in the fitness industry they present their methods to trainers and gyms around the world.



## DREW UNIVERSITY CONCERT HALL

### 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.

#### Tickets and Info

Drew University's Concert Hall

36 Madison Ave. Madison, NJ 07940

973-408-30889

Browse the full lineup and reserve seats at [GDPresents.SimpleTix.com](https://GDPresents.SimpleTix.com) or visit Drew University's Upcoming Events page.

For group packages and questions email [gdptix@gmail.com](mailto:gdptix@gmail.com).

## COLDPLAY TRIBUTE BAND HEADLINES MILLBURN ROCKTOBERFEST - SEPT 13

Millburn's Rocktoberfest celebrates its 10th anniversary on September 13, 2025 (rain date 9/20)! Join the Millburn Education Foundation in Taylor Park to celebrate our milestone year with a festival that features incredible musical performances, kids' rides and games, local food vendors, retail and artisan retailers, and a beer garden.

This year, Rocktoberfest is thrilled to welcome headliner Fix You - a world-class Coldplay tribute band. Fans of the iconic band can expect to hear all their favorite hits brought to life with the passion and energy that only Fix You can deliver. Fix You was featured on Jimmy Fallon's Clash of the Cover Bands on E! Network and in shows across the US and the Caribbean. Rocktoberfest is also proud to showcase local musicians and teen bands from Millburn and surrounding towns. Each band brings their own unique sounds to the stage, offering a diverse mix of genres that reflect the spirit of our community. Whether you're into rock, pop, or Bollywood dance, there's something for every musical taste. Stella Artois' products will be

available in our 21+ beer garden.

Rocktoberfest is proud to continue its commitment to inclusivity with expanded low-sensory offerings including Special Olympics New Jersey activities, silent disco, and acoustic performances at the low sensory stage that are presented in an indoor setting for our guests who prefer a quieter experience.

This year's event will also feature a cornhole tournament in the Beer Garden, with sign-ups to be posted on the website.

Applications are still being accepted for sponsors and vendors at [millburnrocktoberfest.com](https://millburnrocktoberfest.com).

## ROCKTOBERFEST

PRESENTED BY THE MILLBURN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Saturday 9/13 (Rain: 9/20)

Noon-10pm • Taylor Park, Millburn

EAT • DRINK • ROCK • PLAY • DANCE • SHOP

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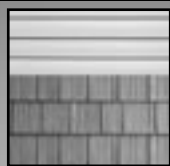
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OF QUALITY  
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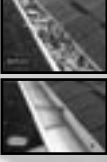
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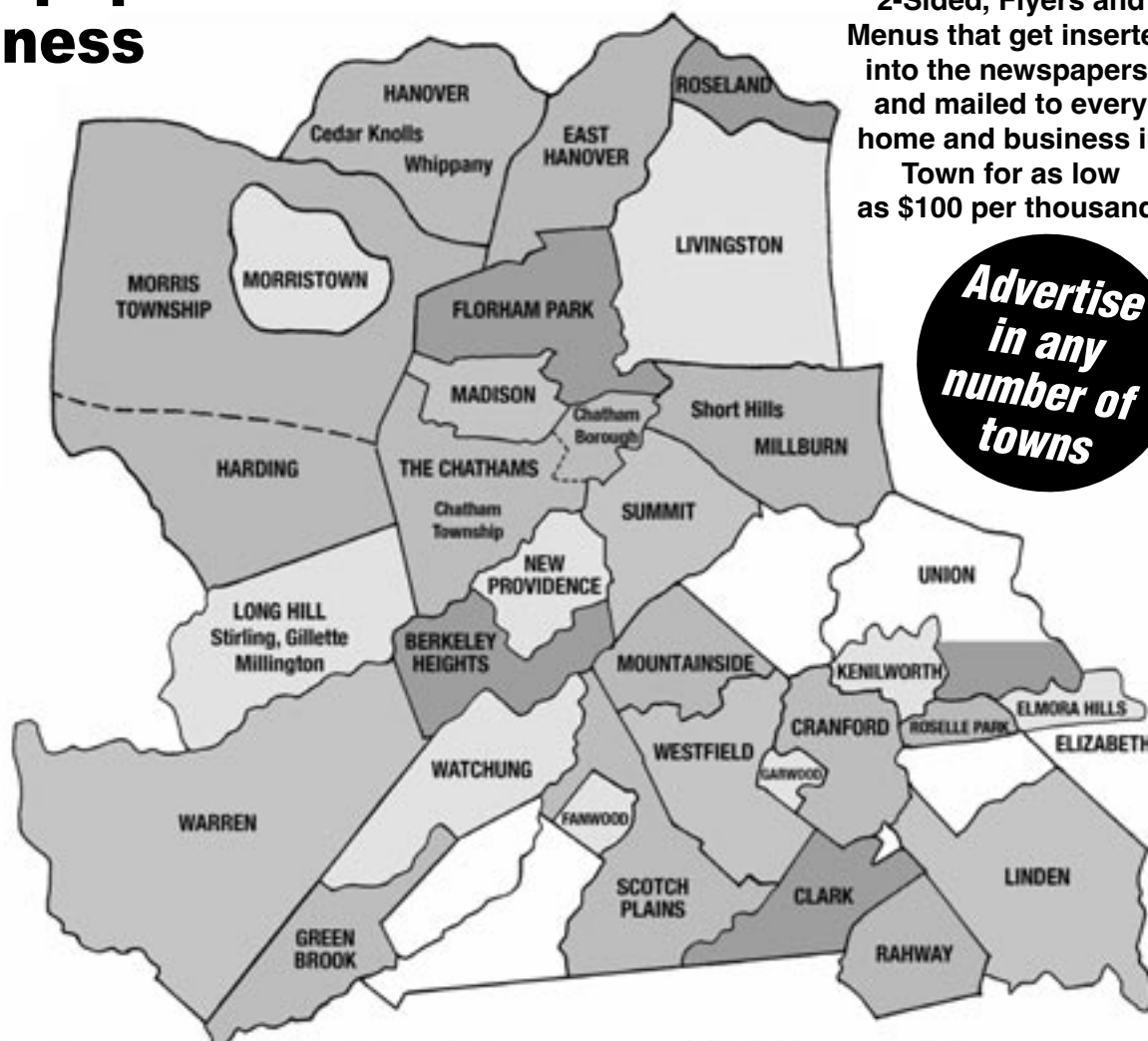
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6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF PAGE	6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
12 Units	6.5"x14"	400	960	1400	1800	2100	2400	2700	3000	3300	3600	3900
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