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ALYSSA D'ADDIO TAKES ON COO ROLE AT NJSN

NJ Sharing Network proudly announces the promotion of Alyssa D'Addio to Chief Operating Officer, a key leadership role in the organization's ongoing mission to save and enhance lives through organ and tissue donation. This milestone coincides with D'Addio's recent national recognition as a 40 Under 40 honoree by The Organ Donation and Transplantation Alliance (The Alliance), honoring rising stars who are transforming the field of donation and transplantation.

In her new role as Chief Operating Officer, D'Addio leads NJ Sharing Network's Clinical Operations, Regulatory Compliance, Donation Resource Center, Hospital Development, Family Services, Communications, and Public Education departments. She oversees team members across these mission-critical areas, ensuring excellence in clinical outcomes, compassionate donor family support, and innovative community engagement.

"Alyssa has consistently demonstrated compassionate leadership with an exceptional ability to build strong teams, and a heartfelt commitment to our lifesaving mission," said Carolyn M. Welsh, President and CEO of NJ Sharing Network. "Her fearless drive and collaborative spirit have helped guide NJ Sharing Network through six consecutive years of record-breaking growth, culminating in a historic 743 organs transplanted in 2024. Her promotion and national recognition are incredibly well-deserved."

D'Addio joined NJ Sharing Network in 2010, inspired by her father Joseph D'Addio, who gave the gift of life through organ and tissue donation - saving two lives and enhancing the lives of over 75 others. She began her journey as a college intern and steadily advanced through key roles, including Assistant Director of Philanthropy, Director of Hospital and Community Services, and Vice President of Hospital and Community Services, where she oversaw NJ Sharing Network's Clinical Donation team, Hospital Development, Family Services, Communications Public Education.

D'Addio's transformational leadership has been instrumental in building strong hospital and community partnerships, mentoring the next generation of donation professionals, and launching nationally acclaimed public awareness campaigns. She is widely recognized for bringing innovative thinking and purpose-driven leadership to every aspect of her work.

In addition to her leadership at NJ Sharing Network, D'Addio contributes nationally as a member of the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations' (AOPO) Impact Committee, helping to shape strategies that promote best practices across the field.

D'Addio holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Business from Muhlenberg College and a certificate in Executive Philanthropy and Resource Development from Fairleigh Dickinson University. She resides in Florham Park, NJ, with her husband Mike Bialko and their two sons, Joseph and Christian.

ABOUT NJ SHARING NETWORK

NJ Sharing Network is a federally designated nonprofit organization committed to saving and enhancing lives through the recovery of donated organs and tissue. Headquartered in New Providence, NJ Sharing Network partners with 54 local hospitals to bring hope to nearly 4,000 New Jersey



(above) Florham Park's Alyssa D'Addio Named Chief Operating Officer of NJ Sharing Network and Recognized Nationally on '40 Under 40' Leadership List.

Courtesy Photo

residents awaiting a lifesaving organ transplant, while also contributing to the national effort to support more than 100,000 individuals on the U.S. transplant waiting list. With over three million New Jerseyans registered as organ and tissue donors, NJ Sharing Network has achieved record-breaking organ donation milestones for six consecutive years. Recognized as one of the nation's top-performing organ procurement organizations (OPOs), the organization was honored as NJBIZ's 2024 Nonprofit Business of the Year. Additionally, NJ Sharing Network has been named one of New Jersey's 'Best Places to Work' for eight consecutive years, reflecting its dedication to fostering an innovative, mission-driven workplace. To learn more, get involved, or register as an organ and tissue donor, visit www.NJSharingNetwork.org.

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FLORHAM PARK ROTARY SCHOLARSHIPS

Submitted by Peter Nicolas

The winners of the Florham Park Rotary Independence Day 50/50 Raffle this year were Joe Guerin and Florham Park Borough Attorney, Joseph Bell. And of course the students who will benefit next Spring from Rotary Scholarships. Both winners recently stopped in to the Florham Park Diner to be greeted by a very happy Rotary president, Dave Kramer, and other Rotarians.

Since the start of the club more than 50 years ago, the Florham Park Rotary has participated annually in Florham Park's Independence Day Parade. Marching in the Parade and waving to the throngs of happy people lining the streets has always been a highlight. It's topped off with the popular sales of 50/50 Raffle tickets. Net proceeds earn funds for the coming Scholarships for the following Spring. Scholarship fundraisers include the raffles sold on Independence Day, the Taste of Florham Park at the Vanderbilt Mansion on the FDU campus, and the annual Halloween Dog Parade and Costume Contest.

"It's because of support like the two Joes and the many others who purchase our 50/50 lottery tickets, that we had our most successful year ever and were able to award \$5,000 in Florham Park Rotary Scholarships to well-deserving students who have a record of community involvement" Kramer said.

Interested in learning more about the world's oldest service organization and the Florham Park Rotary?

Visit the website at FlorhamParkRotary.org, or write info@florhamparkrotary.org or call Membership Chair George Gregor at 917-848-0982.



(above) Florham Park Rotary Scholarship Lottery tent on July 4 with Rotarians Rex Lyon, Bob & Nicki Feid, Simone Campbell and Betty O'Brien

Courtesy Photo

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NJ FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA: CANDLELIGHT CONCERT AND TENORS RETURN

Step into an evening of sophistication and charm as the New Jersey Festival Orchestra presents its first-ever candlelight concert, Romance in the Mansion, on Saturday, November 15 at 6:30 PM at the James Ward Mansion in Westfield.

Under the baton of Music Director and Maestro David Wroe, a string quartet of NJFO musicians — Bradley Bosenbeck (Violin I), Théo Payen (Violin II), Gregory Williams (Viola), and Ansel Cohen (Cello) — will perform an intimate program that blends the romance of Broadway, the emotion of cinematic scores, and the allure of contemporary classics. Audiences will be swept away by lush arrangements from beloved artists such as ABBA, Coldplay, George Gershwin, and more — all illuminated by the warm glow of candlelight in one of Westfield’s most elegant settings.

Guests can indulge in complimentary wine and small plates as they enjoy this unique fusion of artistry and atmosphere. With its golden décor, intimate seating, and unforgettable musical program, Romance in the Mansion promises to be a highlight of the NJFO season.

NJFO gratefully acknowledges the Ward family for generously sharing their beautiful space to support this fundraising event. Proceeds will help bring notable soloists to future NJFO concerts and fund community initiatives such as the orchestra’s Listening is Healing music therapy program. Earlier this season, NJFO musicians Yifei Xu and Matthew Armbruster shared the gift

of music with patients at Overlook Hospital in Summit, NJ, an inspiring example of the impact programs like Listening is Healing bring to the community.

“We are thrilled to present this intimate concert experience and deeply grateful for the generosity that allows us to continue sharing music both on stage and beyond,” said Maestro Wroe.

Following Romance in the Mansion, NJFO rings in the festive season with one of its most anticipated events — The Return of the Holiday Tenors.

Back by popular demand, this symphonic spectacular will fill the concert hall with the magic of the holidays, featuring award-winning tenors John Kun Park, Luke Norvell, and Michael DeShield alongside guest choruses and the full New Jersey Festival Orchestra. Together, they’ll perform an uplifting program of holiday classics, Broadway-style showstoppers, and beloved

seasonal songs that capture the joy and wonder of the season.

Under Maestro Wroe’s direction, this festive performance blends grand symphonic arrangements with soaring vocals and heartwarming moments, making it a beloved tradition for families across New Jersey.

Performances take place on Saturday, December 6, at 7:00 PM at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, and on Sunday, December 7, at 3:00 PM at The Concert Hall at Drew University in Madison.

From the candlelit elegance of Romance in the Mansion to the jubilant voices of The Return of the Holiday Tenors, NJFO’s 2025 season offers something truly special for every music lover.

Tickets are available at njfestivalorchestra.org or by calling the NJFO office at (908) 232-9400 during operational hours. Seating is limited, and early reservations are encouraged.

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Return of the Holiday Tenors

Sat, December 6, 7:00 pm 
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BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AT TWIN MAPLES - DEC 6

The entire family is invited to one of the areas loveliest historic homes, Twin Maples in Summit, on Saturday or Sunday, December 6 and 7 to join Santa for food and fun. The weekend event is hosted by the Fortnightly Club of Summit to



(above) Santa visits with children at Twin Maples beside the Club's Annual Mitten Tree

benefit historic preservation. Festivities begin at 9:15 a.m. each day with a delicious Holiday 'Breakfast with Santa' served in the beautifully decorated ballroom with catering by 'What a Dish.' For those who can't make it for breakfast, 'Brunch with Santa' will be served each day at 11:15 a.m. All seatings include a children's buffet, adult served meal, photos with Santa, live music and more. This year's beautiful holiday décor features a 'Nutcracker' theme, so don't be surprised to see Clara, the Sugar Plum Fairies and some really naughty mice. Tickets to Santa at Twin Maples can be purchased at fortnightlyclub.org or through Eventbrite. Seating is limited. Pricing for Breakfast with Santa is \$45 for adults and \$20 for children under 12. Please bring booster seats for children. Highchairs are not available.

The weekend event benefits the preservation of Twin Maples, 214 Springfield Avenue,

Summit, a property on the New Jersey and National Historic Registers. The house was designed and built by New York architect Alfred F. Norris in the Colonial Revival style in 1908 and resembles the White House. The Fortnightly Club purchased the property in 1949. Today, Twin Maples serves as a clubhouse and hosts many community events and fundraisers. The Fortnightly Club of Summit, a non-profit organization founded in 1893, offers women camaraderie and a full calendar of interesting events and volunteer opportunities. The Club supports the preservation of Twin Maples, education, the arts and humanitarian efforts. For over thirty-years the Club has awarded annual scholarships to deserving young, local women. Fortnightly Club's 104 members are from Summit and many neighboring towns. To join or for more information, visit the Club's website at www.fortnightlyclub.org.

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COMBINED DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENT

Submitted by Dr. Steven G. Caponegro, Superintendent of Schools, Florham Park School District

Recently Educators from the Florham Park School District, Hanover Park Regional High School District and Hanover Township Schools came together for a powerful joint professional development session. The three districts had the honor of welcoming Jordyn Zimmerman, who inspired staff with insights on the power of language, how language impacts students and school culture, and its role in supporting the diverse needs of all learners. The session continued with collaborative breakout meetings focused on differentiated instruction and content articulation - all aimed at strengthening staff practice and enhancing student success.

The joint professional development involving the three districts demonstrated a strategic, unified commitment to advancing professional articulation and fostering staff growth. The opportunity to articulate with our close colleagues from Hanover Township and Hanover Park Regional High School proved to be an exceptionally worthwhile event for our school communities. The audience found Ms. Zimmerman's message, which included her compelling personal accounts of overcoming challenges, to be both inspirational and highly motivating. It was a pleasure working with my fellow Superintendents, Mr. Toomey and Ms. Carrell, as well as each district's Curriculum Department heads, Ms. Schlecht, Mr. Wasserman and Mr. Silkensen to coordinate this event.



(above, l-r) Justin Toomey, Hanover Township Schools Superintendent; Aaron Wasserman, Hanover Township Schools Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Brian Silksensen, Florham Park Schools Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction; Jordyn Zimmerman, Presenter; Noemi Schlecht, Hanover Park Regional High School Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Maria Carrell, Hanover Park Regional High School Superintendent; and Steven Caponegro, Florham Park Schools Superintendent.

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ENROLLING IN MEDICARE AND UPDATING YOUR PLAN

By George Sosa, President, The Sosa Insurance Group

Turning 65 marks eligibility for Medicare, a federal health insurance program designed for seniors and certain individuals with disabilities. While the system can be complex, resources are available to help beneficiaries navigate enrollment, updates, and plan changes to ensure their coverage continues to meet their needs.

Original Medicare consists of Part A (hospital insurance) and Part B (medical insurance). Part A covers hospital stays, skilled nursing facilities, home health, and hospice care. Part B focuses on outpatient care, doctor visits, preventive screenings, and therapies. While comprehensive, Original Medicare leaves gaps in coverage, which can be supplemented through Medigap policies. These help with deductibles, co-pays, and sometimes foreign travel coverage, offering flexibility and predictability.

Medicare Advantage (Part C), offered by private insurers, combines Parts A and B and often includes additional benefits like vision, dental, hearing, fitness programs, and lower premiums. These plans have out-of-pocket maximums, but often require use of in-network providers.

Prescription drug coverage (Part D) is also offered through private plans. Each plan has a formulary outlining covered medications, cost-sharing structures, and potential coverage gaps, though assistance programs like "Extra Help" exist for those with limited income. New Jersey also provides state assistance through PAAD and Senior Gold to help seniors manage prescription

drug costs.

For higher-income beneficiaries, Medicare applies IRMAA (Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount), which adds extra costs to Part B and D premiums based on IRS tax information.

Enrollment timing is crucial. While some may delay enrollment due to employer coverage, late enrollment penalties apply if coverage lapses without creditable insurance.

Every year, Medicare beneficiaries have an opportunity to review and adjust their coverage. The Annual Enrollment Period (October 15 – December 7) allows switching between Original Medicare and Advantage plans, adding or changing drug plans, or returning to Original Medicare. Any changes take effect January 1. Additionally, the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment (January 1 – March 31) allows those in Advantage plans to switch or return to Original Medicare.

When evaluating options, beneficiaries should consider cost, provider networks, additional benefits, drug coverage, and changes in their health or medications.

Understanding Medicare is the first step to making the best decisions for your health and budget. If you'd like help comparing plans or reviewing your coverage for 2026, The Sosa Insurance Group is here to guide you every step of the way. Contact us at 973-902-5445 to schedule a one-on-one review about your Medicare choices.

LIBRARY BOOK SALE NOV. 13 - 16

Friends of the Florham Park Library are sponsoring a book sale at the Florham Park Library on Thursday November 13, until Sunday, November 16. Donations will be accepted from Sunday, November 9, through Monday, November 10. Please visit the Friends website at fplibraryfriends.org for details.

Friends of the Florham Park Library is excited to announce that we have chosen the winner of our logo contest! After careful consideration and lively discussion, the committee chose the logo submitted by Mary Skomial of MIFA Media. Her design represents our steadfast support for the many programs the library offers, including the Summer Reading Program, Museum Passes, Second Sunday Performances and Tony Boxes. The design also incorporates the unique window over the children's room. We thank everyone who submitted a design, and are buoyed by your interest in the Friends of the Florham Park Library and our mission.

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- Enroll in a Prescription Drug Plan or change your Prescription Drug Plan.
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Celebrate the magic of the season as Opera at Florham presents its beloved Annual Holiday Spectacular at St. Margaret of Scotland Church, 6 Sussex Avenue, Morristown, NJ.

This cherished holiday tradition invites audiences to enjoy an enchanting afternoon of Operatic favorites, holiday classics, and festive cheer. Featuring a stellar cast of acclaimed vocalists and musicians, the concert promises to fill the air with warmth, joy, and the timeless beauty of the human voice.

Whether you're a lifelong Opera lover or discovering Opera at Florham for the first time, this delightful performance captures the spirit of the holidays through music that transcends generations. From beloved Arias to familiar seasonal melodies, the Holiday Spectacular is a joyful celebration of artistry and community—perfect for audiences of all ages.

Why You Can't Miss It

Opera at Florham's Holiday Spectacular is more than a concert—it's a heartwarming experience that has become a highlight of the holiday season across New Jersey. Each year, this festive performance transforms St. Margaret of Scotland Church into a winter wonderland of

music, where world-class voices and live accompaniment inspire wonder and joy.

Expect to be swept away by the power of the human voice, the beauty of timeless melodies, and the spirit of togetherness that defines this special time of the year. Whether you come to be uplifted, share the magic with family and friends, or simply savor the music of the season, the Holiday Spectacular is a gift you'll remember long after the final note.

Tickets are \$30 for general admission, with student discounts available. For tickets and more information, please visit operaatflorham.org.

Check out our website for more information and future performances including:

- Sunday, February 15, 2026
- Valentine Serenade
- Sunday, April 12, 2026
- Revenge, Romance & Revelry: Scenes from Die Fledermaus
- Sunday, May 17, 2026
- 36th Annual International Vocal Competition

Founded in 1982, Opera at Florham is northern New Jersey's premier Opera company, presenting annual concerts, the International Vocal Competition, and Opera Talk educational series

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Get ready for a season of unforgettable live music that spans generations and genres. Drew University Concert Hall is hosting a powerhouse lineup of shows that bring the best of American rock, soul, and oldies to the stage. Whether you're a lifelong fan or discovering these classics for the first time, each performance promises a night of nostalgia, energy, and pure musical joy.

ROCK & SOUL HIGHLIGHTS

NOV. 1 – THE B STREET BAND:

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NOV. 21 – MOTOR CITY REVUE:

MOTOWN TRIBUTE FEATURING LAYONNE HOLMES

Feel the groove with this 11-piece powerhouse that brings the golden age of Motown to life. With rich harmonies, tight rhythms, and powerhouse vocals led by Layonne Holmes, Motor City Revue delivers unforgettable renditions of hits by The Temptations, The Supremes, Stevie Wonder, and more. It's a soulful celebration that will have you dancing from the first note to the last.

DEC. 14 – TRIBUTES TO MELLENCAMP

AND BAD COMPANY: ONE STAGE, ONE NIGHT

Two rock legends, one epic night. Experience the heartland grit and storytelling of John Mellencamp alongside the anthemic rock energy

of Bad Company. From "Pink Houses" to "Feel Like Makin' Love," this double-header delivers powerhouse vocals and unforgettable riffs. Plus, enjoy a few holiday twists—including Mellencamp's gritty spin on "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" and other rock-infused Christmas classics to get you in the spirit.

OLDIES & HOLIDAY FAVORITES

NOV. 14 – THE CYRKLE & BILLY J. KRAMER: MEMORIES OF THE HITS, '60S & THE BEATLES

Step back into the era of peace, love, and chart-topping harmonies. These original hitmakers bring the British Invasion era to life with timeless songs, behind-the-scenes stories, and a night of pure '60s nostalgia and The Beatles!

NOV. 29 – CHRISTMAS WITH THE DUPREES & ANTHONY DUKE CLAUS

Celebrate the season with the smooth harmonies and timeless charm of The Duprees. Known for their romantic doo-wop sound, they'll perform holiday favorites alongside beloved hits like "You Belong to Me" and "Have You Heard." Joined by Anthony Duke Claus, this festive evening is the perfect kickoff to the holiday season.

Buy now at gdpresents.simplenetix.com. Tickets start at just \$30. Groups of 10+ get 15% off automatically at checkout

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Tammy Scro's
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THE CYRKLE
 Memories of the Music, the 60's & The Beatles
BILLY J KRAMER
 Drew University, Madison, NJ

ALL SAINTS' DAY NEW ORLEANS-STYLE JAZZ CELEBRATION - NOV 2

Madison United Methodist Church

On Sunday, November 2, the Madison United Methodist Church will join Christians around the world in commemorating All Saints' Day, a cherished tradition in many liturgical churches. In the United Methodist Church, this day offers a sacred moment to remember loved ones who have passed away, honoring both the great saints of history and the "everyday saints" who now rest in God's care.

This year, the Madison congregation is adding a joyful twist. The church will celebrate New Orleans-style, with a jazz band blending reverence with rhythm. The service will begin in quiet reflection, offering space to remember those who have gone before us. As worship unfolds, the music and mood will rise in celebration of their lives and the hope of eternal joy.

The morning will conclude with a rousing rendition of the beloved jazz standard "When the Saints Go Marching In," inviting people to dance



and celebrate the lives of the saints. Worshippers are invited to bring an ornament representing a special memory of a loved one, though participation is open to all, whether or not you bring something to share.

Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. at 24 Madison Avenue. For more details, please get in touch with the church office at 973-377-1231 or church@umcmadison.org.

SCANDINAVIAN FOOD & GIFT SALE - NOV 22ND

Lodge Linne #429 will be sponsoring their 45th annual Scandinavian Food & Gift Sale on Saturday November 22nd from, 10 am -3pm. The sale will be held at Salt Brook School, 40 Maple St., New Providence, NJ. We will feature Scandinavian Christmas decorations, Norwegian Sweaters, tomtar, candles, linens, housewares, imported foods and baked goods. Light Scandinavian refreshments will be served starting at 11:00. Lodge meetings are held the 3rd Friday of the month at Faith Lutheran Church, 524 South St., New

Providence. **FREE ADMISSION**, Handicapped accessible. The event is sponsored by Lodge Linne #429, Vasa Order of America.

Proceeds from the sale benefit many local organizations and charities such as First Aid Squads, local libraries, high school scholarships, Sage, Summit speech schools and New Providence Community Organization.

For Further information contact:

Karen 908-665-1292, Judy 908-464-0139, Vibeke 908-313-0376.



(above) Nancy Lamensdorf, Erin Cook, Margaret, Warlick, Carol Liscinsky, and Carol Liscinsky.

Courtesy Photo

SENIOR CLUB EVENTS

HEALTH CARE NURSE – UPDATE

Our new health care nurse is, Michael Camara, providing blood pressure monitoring before member meetings at the Florham Park Community Center/ Recreation Center.

MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING

“FLIP PETERS, GUITARIST & SINGER“

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH, 2025, The Florham Park Senior Citizens Club members on Wednesday, November 12th, 2025, at 11:00a.m, at the Florham Park Community Center. We welcome Flip Peters who has been performing as a guitarist and singer since the early 1970s. As a member of the New York club date scene, Flip has been a house musician at The Rainbow Room at Rockefeller Center, The World Trade Center, The Waldorf Astoria and many other top venues in the New York area. He has performed with many of the top freelance Jazz and Classical musicians in the New York Metro area. Through sing-along sessions, Flip's aim is to have audiences relive cherished memories with music that has touched their hearts for having a fun time. Light refreshments will be provided by The Delaney at the Green, Florham Park and HomeWatch Care Givers, South Orange.

Our Senior Citizens monthly club meetings are held at the Florham Park Community Center located in the borough hall complex, address 111 Ridgedale Avenue, located 200 yards behind town hall. Note the Florham Park Community Center is also called the Recreation Center (large blue building). Social Time is at 10:45a.m. Coffee provided.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON DATE (save the date)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11TH, 2025

Florham Park Senior Citizens Club announces the 2025 Holiday Luncheon date for Thursday, December 11th, 2025, at 11:30a.m. to 2:30p.m. We are excited to let all Florham Park Senior Citizens know the holiday luncheon will be at the Park Savoy, 236 Ridgedale Avenue, Florham Park, N.J. For entertainment as in the past we welcome once again the fabulous Hanover Park High School Chamber Singers.

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FRELINGHUYSEN ARBORETUM TO BE SITE OF NEW TRIBUTE TO VETERANS

The Morris County Park Commission and the Morris County Board of County Commissioners recently joined Veterans Valor of New Jersey at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum for a formal signing of an agreement establishing The Healing Garden of Morris, a new public space dedicated to honoring veterans and supporting their families.

The agreement, signed by Park Commission Executive Director Dave Helmer, Park

Commission President Stuart Lasser, and Veterans Valor Chairman Charlie Iuliano, marks the official launch of a project more than two years in the making.

The purpose of The Healing Garden of Morris rests within its name – a garden that serves as a place for peace, reflection and spiritual renewal, while allowing veterans and the broader community to connect. Envisioned as a “living tribute,” the plan is for the garden to host veteran-related art, horticultural programs, wellness seminars and opportunities for creative expression. At its core is the Disarm PTSD initiative, a campaign to help veterans transform their experiences with service-related trauma into a source of purpose and connection.

Will Draper, executive director of Veterans Valor listed and described each of the areas envisioned:

1. Point of Sacrifice: Acknowledging the bravery and sacrifices made by service members.
2. Medevac: Understanding the critical moments of medical evacuation and care in the field.
3. Triage: Exploring the initial assessments and treatments veterans receive upon return.
4. Homeward: Celebrating the emotional journey of returning home and reuniting with loved ones.
5. Recovery: Highlighting the ongoing physical and mental health support essential for veterans.
6. Fallen: Honoring those who lost the battle at home, recognizing their sacrifice and legacy.

7. New Life: Inspiring hope and new beginnings for veterans and their families.

During the event, several veterans -- Aaron Oliver, a 21-year U.S. Army veteran; Rob Hughes, retired U.S. Navy captain and board member of Veterans Valor; and Peter Danchise, a Vietnam veteran and artist -- spoke about the challenges they faced and continue to face with PTSD and readjusting to life after war. They emphasized how meaningful this project is to them and to other veterans who share those experiences. Following the signing, attendees toured the future garden site.

Morris County continues to prioritize veterans through programs and partnerships that provide support and recognition. Last year, the county expanded the Veterans Services Office in Morris Township to accommodate a federal Veterans Affairs Community Access Point. In September, the county partnered with the County College of Morris to provide a Veterans Services Officer twice a month at the college’s Veterans Resource Center.

Veterans Valor, also known as The Healing Gardens of Morris, Inc., is a nonprofit dedicated to honoring and supporting New Jersey veterans, especially those wounded in service, and their families.

The group aims to raise awareness of post-service challenges and create opportunities for healing and connection through community-driven initiatives.

For more information about The Healing Garden of Morris and ways to support the project, visit VeteransValorofNJ.org.



(above, l-r) Charlie Iuliano, chairman of Veterans Valor, signing the agreement with Stuart Lasser, president of the Morris County Park Commission and Dave Helmer, executive director of the Park Commission.

Courtesy Photos



(above) A group shot of veterans, members of the Park Commission, and public officials at the Healing Garden of Morris signing.

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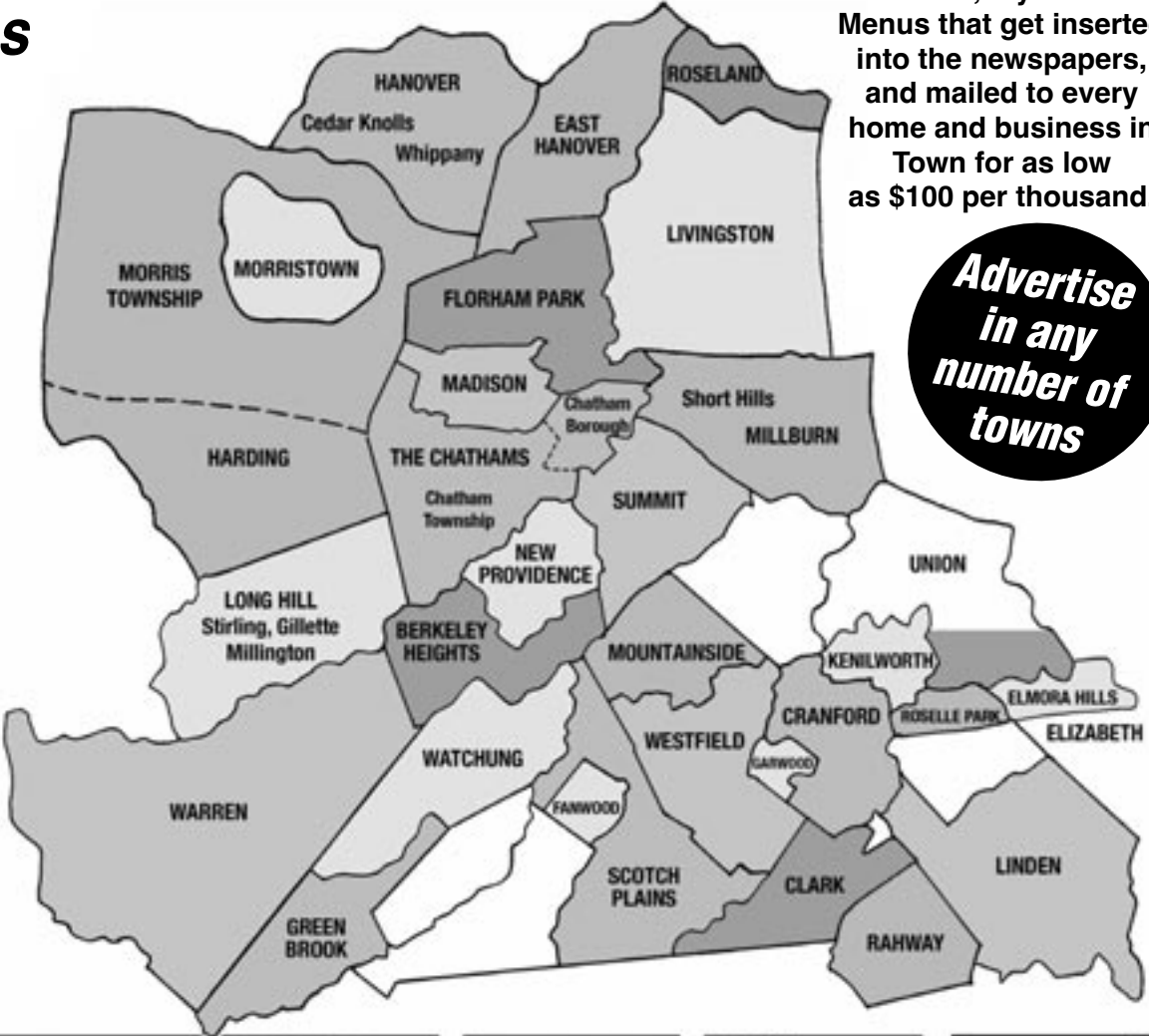
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Schubertiade 2025

Sat., Nov., 15, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Please join us for our annual Schubertiade to celebrate the life and music of Franz Schubert (1797-1828). This year's program will be very special, featuring one of Schubert's most beloved chamber works – the "Trout" Quintet (D. 667). Also on the program will be Hummel's Piano Quintet, Op. 87, along with select Schubert lieder sung by the magnificent bass/baritone, Steven Scheschareg. Performers will be pianist, Itay Goren, along with members of the Madison String Quartet (Evelyn Estava, violin; Gerall Hieser, cello) and artists Gabriela Rengel (viola) and Gennaro Marchese (double bass). Registration (required) in the Public Meeting Room.

CALL FOR ART SUBMISSION FOR JANE AUSTEN THEMED EXHIBIT

In honor of Austen's 250th birthday on December 16, the library invites visual artists residing or working within Morris County to help us celebrate the enduring legacy of this beloved author through art. Submit your original, Austen-inspired artwork for inclusion in an exhibition in the library gallery to run through December 2025.

ADULTS

Writers Circle

Wed., Nov. 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Join our Writing Circle for experience, tips on writing, reading, editing, and revising your work, whether poetry, prose, or long story. No registration needed.

True Crime Chat (Via Zoom)

Thu., Nov. 13, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Virtual true crime discussion group meets via Zoom on the second Thursday evening of each month. The Zoom link will be emailed to you. Registration (required).

Tuesday Book Club

Tue., Nov. 18, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

This month we're talking about The Choir by Joanna Trollope. For more info or to reserve a copy of the book, please call 973-285-6970. No registration needed. Note: We meet on the third Tuesday this month because we are closed on the second Tuesday, which is our usual date.

Socrates Cafe

Tue., Nov. 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

A discussion group using the dialogue of the Socratic Method. Speaking is not required, although encouraged. Light refreshments provided. Drop-in; no registration required.

Mystery Book Club

Mon., Nov. 24, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

We read and discuss books chosen by the group. No registration necessary. This month's book: The Blessing Way by Tony Hillerman. Reserve a copy of the book, please call 973-285-6970.

TEENS

Teen Space

Fri., Nov. 14, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Come hang out with your peers at our monthly program! Unstructured time to just hang or enjoy games, crafts, and, of course, snacks. For ages 13-18. Drop-in; no registration necessary. in the Conference Room.

CHILDREN

LEGO Club

Sat., 11/1, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Create and build using LEGO! Your creations will be displayed in the children's room. For ages 4-12. Registration (required) begins 10/21. Parents/carers must remain with children during LEGO Club.

Minecraft Scarecrow Building

Thu., 11/6, 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. or 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Participants battle their way through the Hay Maze to enjoy the fun activities in the Fall Festival. The game then finishes with a Scarecrow Building Challenge! Children are encouraged to bring their own laptops, tablets, and other mobile devices. Presented by Arrayscape Gaming. Parents/carers must remain with children during the program. For grades 2-5. Registration (required) 10/21.

Budget Boosters

Fri., 11/7, 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Financial Literacy for Kids: Kids learn about the 50/30/20 rule through a creative budgeting activity that teaches smart money habits early. For ages 8-12. Registration (required) 10/21

Preschool Storytime & Music

Tuesdays, Nov. 18 & 25, 10:00-10:30 a.m. w/Mr. Laurence: Stories, fingerplays and music with Mr. Laurence. For ages 2-5. Drop-in.

ALL AGES

Chess Club

Wed., Nov. 12, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Friendly & non-competitive chess games between players of all ages and ability levels. Basic knowledge of the game's rules is suggested. No registration needed.

Holiday Ornament Decorating

Monday, Nov. 17 through Saturday, Nov. 29. Decorate a holiday ornament for our tree at Frelinghuysen Arboretum's "Festival of the Trees." The children's decorating station will be outside the children's room; the teen/adult station will be outside the meeting rooms. Drop-in.

Spanish Conversation

Thu., Nov. 20, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Practice your Spanish language proficiency in a casual small group environment. A basic level skill is recommended, but any skill level is welcome. No registration required. For teens and adults.

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