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## **ROBERT LITRIO AMONG VETS TO BE HONORED**

The public to attend the 2025 Annual Veterans Day Ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 6:30 p.m., in the Commissioners' Public Meeting Room 555 of the Administration and Records Building, 10 Court St., Morristown.

This year's ceremony will feature the presentation of Morris County Distinguished Military Service Medals to seven local veterans, a celebration of the 250th birthday of the United States Marine Corps and a special "Morris County Veteran of Valor" tribute honoring Civil War hero, Cpl. Charles Fern Hopkins, Sr.

The event coincides with Operation Green Light, a nationwide campaign Morris County is supporting this year. From Nov. 4 through Nov. 11, residents, businesses, schools and local governments are encouraged to display green lights in homes and workplaces to show appreciation for veterans and to raise awareness of the services and support available to them in Morris County.

#### **VETERANS RECEIVING MORRIS COUNTY DISTINGUISHED** MILITARY SERVICE MEDALS

- Vincent J. DeCaro, Navy Morris Plains
- Christopher Gardner, Army Morristown
- Charles E. Johnson, Army/USAR Dover
- Robert Litrio, Army Hanover Township
- Ronald Pierantozzi, Navy Pequannock
- Aniceto Rivera, Army Boonton Township
- Samuel Y. Yuen, Navy Randolph Township

#### **CELEBRATING THE U.S. MARINE CORPS' 250TH BIRTHDAY**

In celebration of the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Marine Corps, the county commissioners will also honor members of the 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve stationed at Picatinny Arsenal.

Issue 12 • November 2025

#### **MORRIS COUNTY VETERAN OF VALOR:** CPL. CHARLES FERN HOPKINS, SR.

As part of an extra special ceremony this year, a framed Resolution of Honor recognizing a Morris County "Veteran of Valor" will be presented posthumously to Cpl. Charles Fern Hopkins, Sr., a Civil War Medal of Honor recipient, civic leader and lifelong public servant remembered as "Boonton's Grand Old Man."

A display outside the Commissioners' Public Meeting Room will feature artifacts related to Hopkins, including his Medal of Honor, on loan from his great-grandsonCharlie Maraziti., who will attend the ceremony to accept the resolution of honor from the Morris County Commissioners.

The public is encouraged to attend and join in honoring the county's veterans. Guests are advised to arrive early to secure seating.

The event will also be livestreamed on the county's website www.morriscountynj.gov and Facebook page: Morris County Veteran Ceremony 2025





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# Rotary

### **COAT & SWEATER DRIVE FOR CHILDREN**

#### Hanover Rotary Club

As the holiday season and cold weather approach please help bring comfort and joy to children who have been victims of abuse and neglect. The Hanover Rotary Club in support of Deirdre's House, (deirdreshouse.org), collecting jackets, coats and sweaters that are new, or have no signs of wear, to gift these kids and keep them warm this winter. All sizes from infant to adult will be greatly appreciated.

Item drop off location is Ritschel Chiropractic, 1 Heather Dr, East Hanover, NJ 07936.

Donations are accepted through November 20, 2025.

The Hanover Rotary Club is dedicated to enriching lives by providing service to others, goodwill and peace through our fellowship of business, professional and community leaders.

If you want to join us or speak at one of our meetings, please visit hanoverrotaryclub.org.

Hanover Rotary meets at 7:30 a.m. Thursday mornings at IHOP, 102 East Hanover Ave in Cedar Knolls.



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### THE SIEMINSKI THEATER FUND RAISING EVENT OF THE YEAR!

The Sieminski Theater, a professional 501c3 not-for-profit performing arts center located in Basking Ridge NJ, announces our 2025 fund raising event of the year!

Saturday, November 15th at 6:00 pm join us for this fun-filled evening and fundraising event for the Sieminski Theater! Just in time for the holiday Hallmark movie season, and who doesn't love those cheesy Hallmark holiday movies! "My Unauthorized Hallmark Movie Musical"!

In this innovative one-woman musical show, supported by a cast of eight characters in her imagination via multimedia, we escape into her movie fantasy where men and women find courage and acceptance to speak their own voice without judgement. Frivolous, fractured, and fun musical moments take you on a ride of pure joy where love always wins. "My (unauthorized) Hallmark Movie Musical" is a unique and

captivating blend of live theater and cinema, offering audiences a spellbinding escape into the magic of a rom-com where they, too, can discover their inner love warriors. The story follows an exhausted essential worker who finds solace in binge-watching cheesy Hallmark movies. As she attempts to write her own Hallmark-inspired musical, the characters suddenly come to life on screen, taking over the story and challenging her to wade through the cheese and find a truly happy ending.

The evening will start with a cocktail reception in the lobby with Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Then move into the theater for this delightful, lighthearted musical production. Afterwards, enjoy a dessert bar and champagne and an opportunity to meet the star of the show. There will be raffles, drawings and more surprises. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go to future

programming at the Sieminski Theater. An event not to be missed and will help keep the Arts alive at the Sieminski Theater!!

#### **ABOUT THE SIEMINSKI THEATER:**

Bringing a professional performing arts venue with a diverse lineup of entertainment to Basking Ridge and the surrounding communities makes the Sieminski Theater and Somerset County an artistic and cultural destination. We enjoy a newly expanded performance schedule from American Theater Group, Light Opera of New Jersey, New Jersey Festival Orchestra, Trilogy Repertory, and countless national touring groups. Our intimate, award-winning non-profit venue features technical amenities that rival any Broadway theater.

Visit us at www.sieminskitheater.org to view our upcoming entertainment schedule, where any seat is the best seat in the house.



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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.

Courtesy Photo

# **EXPERIENCE ROCK, SOUL & OLDIES AT DREW UNIVERSITY CONCERT HALL**

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 BSTREET BAND: THE MUSIC OF BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

Kick off the series with the ultimate tribute to The Boss. The BStreet Band has been electrifying audiences for over 40 years with their spot-on renditions of Springsteen's greatest hits. Expect a high-energy night of sing-alongs, storytelling, and Springsteen magic.

#### 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.

#### 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.

# 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.

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### FRELINGHUYSEN ARBORETUM TO BE SITE OF NEW TRIBUTE TO VETERANS

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



(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.

The Morris County Park Commission and the Commission President Stuart Lasser, and 7. New Life: Inspiring hope and new 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 veteranrelated art, horticultural programs, wellness seminars and opportunities for creative expression. At its core is theDisarm 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
- 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.

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 postservice challenges and create opportunities for healing and connection through communitydriven initiatives.

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



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

# CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH OPERA AT FLORHAM'S HOLIDAY SHOW

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

Celebrate the magic of the season as Opera at music, where world-class voices and live orham presents its beloved Annual Holiday 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

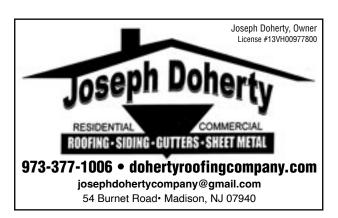
Sunday, May 17, 2026

- 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









# WHIPPANONG LIBRARY NOVEMBER EVENTS

\*To register, go to event page at whippanong.org/events-calendar

#### **Engineering Club with Shreya (Grades 5-8)**

Monday, November 3, 6:00-7:30 PM

Come join Shreya as she teaches you to create a fun and thought-provoking craft using key engineering principles! Must be a Hanover Township resident. Must pre-register.\*

# Medicare Annual Enrollment with Morris County SHIP

Thursday, November 6, 1:00 PM

Medicare annual enrollment is from Octoer 15 to December 7 each year. This program will review Medicare prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage plans to assist people in making decisions for Medicare Health Insurance in 2026. Must pre-register.\*

#### **Animals Go to War**

Thursday, November 6, 6:30 PM

With men in uniform, creatures large and small heroically performed during World War I from 1914-1918. Not only did animals help save lives, but they comforted soldiers facing hardships and danger. Meet the pets, rodents, farm and circus animals, birds, and even insects that accomplished amazing things during the war. Must pre-register.\*

#### **Rock Painting (Adult)**

Thursday, November 20, 6:00 PM

Julia DalCeredo with teach you how to paint a fall themed rock! All materials provided. Must pre-register.\*



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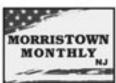


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### **MORRIS COUNTY LIBRARY NOVEMBER EVENTS**

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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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