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SHOWING THEIR TRUE COLORS

Submitted by Katherine De Vito

The Westfield High School Marching Band kicked off their competitive season with a strong showing at the NJMBDA Contest held at Piscataway High School on Saturday, October 4. Their 2025 production, "True Colors," earned the band second place in their division, class AAAA and 3rd overall out of 13 bands.

The Marching Blue Devils, a 100-member ensemble, delivered a vibrant and visually striking performance. Under the leadership of drum majors Joe Michaeli and Marisa (last name), the group showcased a colorful and creative show featuring oversized props like crayon boxes and crayons. This year's musical selections include True Colors by Cyndi Lauper, Paint It Black by the Rolling Stones, Colors of the Wind from Disney's Pocahontas, Bright Blue by Michael Torke, and original compositions arranged specifically for this production.

The band is directed by Chris Vitale and Gabe Batiz, Westfield High School's band directors, who guide the group in developing a new themed show each year. Mr. Vitale said: "The students delivered a strong performance and we are excited to keep building from here. Each week is an opportunity to grow and add new layers to

what we're creating."

Catch the Marching Blue Devils at their next competition, an NJMBDA Contest, in East Brunswick on October 18 at East Brunswick High School.

Students interested in joining the Westfield High School Marching Band for the Fall 2026 season are encouraged to attend an interest meeting in the spring. More information about the program is available at westfieldhsbands.org.



(above) Marching Blue Devils first competition of 2025 earned the band second place in their division, class AAAA and 3rd overall out of 13 bands.

Courtesy Photo





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VFW BREAKFAST WELCOMES ALL AREA VETS

Cranford VFW Post #335

On Sunday, November 9, 2025 Cranford VFW This FREE event is open to Post #335 will be holding its annual Veterans' VETERANS, and a full "sit down be served by the Post Auxiliary."



(above) Navy Lt Mike Rotella will be the key speaker at the Cranford VFW annual Veterans Breakfast. All area veterans are invited to attend this free event.

Home at 479 South Avenue East in Cranford. This FREE event is open to ALL AREA VETERANS, and a full "sit down" breakfast will be served by the Post Auxiliary.

Several notable speakers will be on hand, with the featured speaker being Cranford's own Navy LT Mike Rotella, who served on the staff of a Special Operations Command Joint Task Force supporting Operation Inherent Resolve and Gallant Phoenix in the Middle East.

LT Rotella is warfare qualified as an Intelligence Officer and was awarded the Information Dominance Warfare Officer badge as well as Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal among many others. Recently retired from Federal Law Enforcement, he is a Cranford resident along with his wife Lisa and two children Kelly and Daniel. LT Rotella is a lifetime member of the VFW Post #335 in Cranford and is also is an active member of the Elks Veteran Service Committee and the Italian American Police Society of New Jersey.

This highly attended event is a great chance to meet and greet other veterans. If you are a veteran of any era, VFW Post #335 encourages you to attend this important, fulfilling event. There is no reservation required and more information may be obtained at the Post website at vfw335.org, or emailing jimdrc@verizon.net.

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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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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 6:00pm 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!!

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OPERAS ON FILM

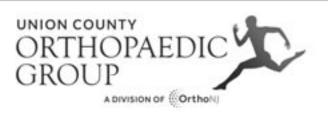
Mountainside Rescue Squad

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:

November 14th, THAIS

starring Renee Fleming
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December 12th, I LOMBARDI
starring Jose Carreras LaScala

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NINA SYLVESTER TAKES LEAD OF RAKE AND HOE GARDEN CLUB

Rake and Hoe Garden Club

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield proudly begins its new season under the leadership of newly elected president Nina Sylvester.

A longtime resident of Mountainside and a dedicated member of the club for ten years, Sylvester brings a wealth of experience and passion to her new role. A certified flower show judge and Rutgers Master Gardener, she comes from a long line of avid gardeners – her mother and grandmothers all shared a deep love of horticulture. Her professional background includes a career in quality assurance at Merck,



(above) The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield proudly begins its new season under the leadership of newly elected president Nina Sylvester. New members welcome!

followed by the raising of three children.

Sylvester originally joined the club through her daughter Emma's involvement in the Rake and Hoe Juniors program. Over the years, she has been recognized with multiple club awards, including the prestigious Barbara Mullin Award for Mentoring and Educating. Her dedication to nurturing the skills and creativity of fellow members in crafts and floral design has been deeply appreciated throughout the club.

Her theme for the 2025–2026 club year is "Let's Grow Together."

"I've always loved the 'Back to School' season," Sylvester shared. "It's full of promise and potential—a fresh start. A new garden club year holds the same excitement. I'm honored to serve as president, and I look forward to all the ways we'll grow together—through learning, gardening, and friendship."

Nina will be supported by an Executive Board of Margot Partridge (Vice President), Betsey Chance (Treasurer), Joann Androconis (Recording Secretary), Jane Christiani (Corresponding Secretary) and Sharon Shiraga (Director).

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club offers a wide range of educational programs, hands-on workshops, and service opportunities. Membership is open to all levels of experience—no need to be a Master Gardener to join.

Upcoming Programs Include: November 12 – "Sustainable Floral Design" with Tania Gindili. Gindili will present techniques and materials

focused on environmentally-friendly floral arranging using locally-sourced and native plant varieties.

Additional programs and workshops for the season include: Air-Dry Artistic Crafts creating trinket leaf dishes; Bird ID Apps learning how to use Merlin and other tools; Designing Without Oasis featuring sustainable floral arranging without floral foam; Still Life Photography Workshop and Thanksgiving Centerpiece Design Sessions

Members will also be active in community service, including maintaining local community gardens, creating floral arrangements for mobile meals, crafting ornaments and decorating holiday trees at Jardine Academy, managing plantings at the NJ Veterans Memorial Home and supporting the Rake and Hoe Juniors in youth-focused gardening activities.

"Let's Grow Together' is about more than plants," said Sylvester. "It's about friendships, learning, and cultivating beauty in our gardens and our communities."

Interested in joining?

Guests are welcome to attend an upcoming meeting in November to learn more. For more information, please contact Membership Chair Margot Partridge at margotpartridge816@gmail.com.

The club is affiliated with the Garden Club of New Jersey and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Membership is open to residents of Westfield and surrounding towns.

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You can bid anytime through November 13, with proceeds going to the Public Arts Commission.



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YOUTH TO COMMEMORATE NJ'S PRIVATEERS

Daughters of the American Revolution

Founded in 1895, the Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) is the nation's oldest and largest nonpolitical patriotic youth organization. Membership is open to boys and girls from birth to age 21 who are descended from a person who aided the cause of independence during the American Revolution. New Jersey has 11 C.A.R. groups, known as societies.

Activities offered on an age-appropriate basis help members learn about American history, government, historic preservation, conservation, community service and more. Members also gain valuable leadership experience conducting meetings and serving as delegates at state and national conferences.

The New Jersey C.A.R. state project for 2025-2026 is "Patriot Privateers," and focuses on the critical role of privateers off the New Jersey coast during the American Revolution. The goal is to create an educational marker to be placed along the New Jersey shore.

Pis-Cat-A-Qua Society C.A.R., hosted by the Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, is seeking new members. For more information, contact ESCchapterDAR@gmail.com or visit nscar.org.



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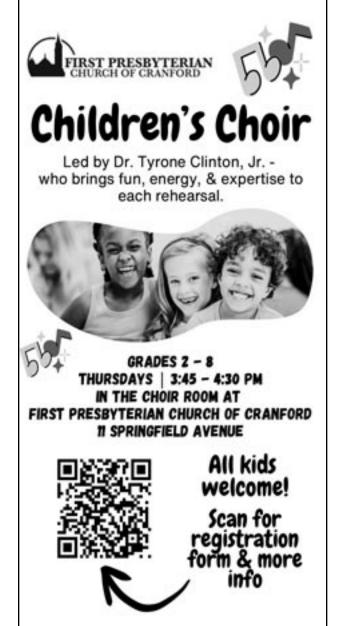
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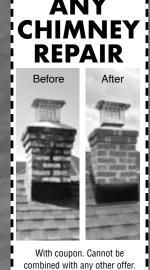
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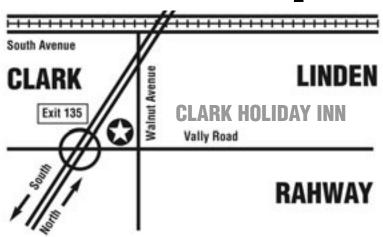
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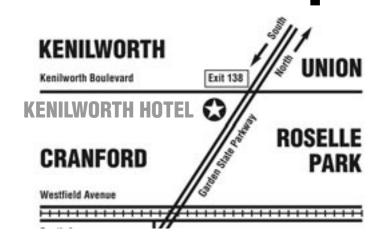
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BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AT TWIN MAPLES





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 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 purchased be https://www.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.

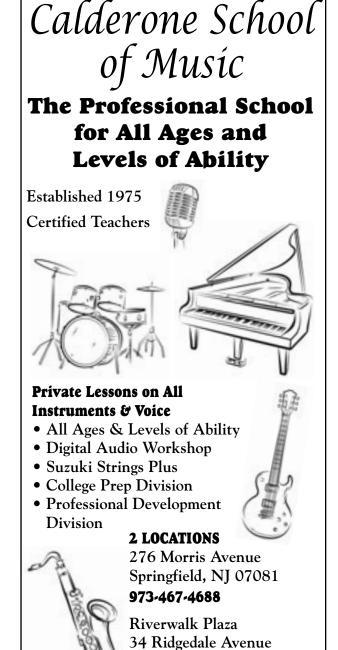
The weekend event benefits the preserv

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.





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



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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, costsharing 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.







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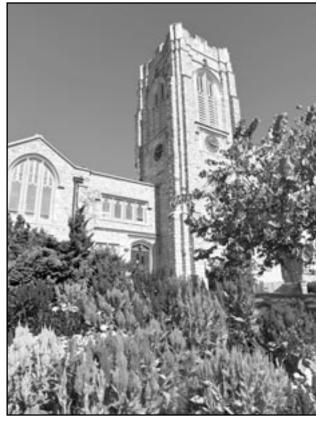
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GARDEN OF THE MONTH

The Garden Club of Westfield has chosen the bells) and lavender verbena. The garden brings older; \$4 ages 3-12, and free age 2 and younger. joy to all who go past this fine building in the Gothic Revival style. The club invites the community to follow it on Facebook at facebook.com/TheGardenClubofWestfield.



Courtesy Photo

EARLY AMERICAN THANKSGIVING FEAST PRESENTATION IN THE FRAZEE - NOV 23

Westfield Historical Society

A special day of thanks has been part of the striking garden of the First United Methodist American tradition since 1621. The Miller-Cory Church at One East Broad Street, Westfield, as its House Museum cooks will demonstrate the September Garden of the Month. The garden is preparation of an early American Thanksgiving the creation of Dan Bottorff who has lovingly feast in the Frazee Building over the museum's tended it for 12 years with the assistance of open-hearth fire, using colonial recipes and members of the congregation. Dan's passion for seasonal ingredients. (Please note that this is a gardening began as a small boy when he helped demonstration only; dinner is not being served.) his mother on the family farm in Iowa. He recalls Then in the main house, join us for a special helping his mother plant gladiolas in the rich program highlighting the earliest inhabitants of Iowa soil. The Methodist Church garden is now New Jersey, the Lenape Indians. Various aspects ablaze with flaming celosia plants of red, orange of everyday life such as beliefs, families, home, and yellow. These plants contrast dramatically food, clothing, medicine, storytelling and games with white vinca, purple calibrachoa (million will be presented. Admission is \$5 ages 13 and

The Miller Cory House Museum is located at 614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield, NJ. Call the museum at 908-232-1776 email or millercorymuseum@gmail.com for more information.

Since 1968, the 501(c)(3) non-profit Miller Cory House Museum/Westfield Historical Society has worked to preserve, interpret and encourage interest in history, Westfield, and its residents through educational efforts and community outreach programs. For more information on the Miller Cory House Museum/Westfield Historical Society and their millercoryhouse.com westfieldhistoricalsociety.org and, like us on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram.



(above) A Colonial Thanksgiving will be presented at the Miller-Cory House plus Lenape Lore, *Nov 23th, 2 - 4 p.m.* Courtesy Photo

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Get ready for a season of unforgettable live renditions of Springsteen's greatest hits. From the anthemic "Born to Run" to the heartfelt "Thunder Road," this show captures the spirit, sound, and soul of Jersey rock. Expect a high-energy night of sing-alongs, storytelling, and Springsteen magic that'll leave you on your feet.

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 charttopping 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

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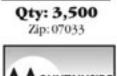
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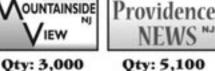
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6 Units 6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	280	
9 HALF PAGE 6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	320	
12 Units 6.5"x14"	400	960	1400	1800	2100	2400	2700	3000	3300	3600	390	
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Lodge 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

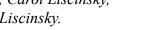
FREE ADMISSION, Providence. Handicapped accessible. The event is sponsored by Lodge Linne #429, Vasa Order of America.

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.







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