

Elmora Hills

ELIZABETH, NJ

MONTHLY JOURNAL

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Elmora Hills MONTHLY JOURNAL
ELIZABETH, NJ

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SPIRITUAL? CURIOUS? SEEKING?

Do you consider yourself Spiritual? Are you Curious about what people are talking about when they speak of having faith or being spiritual? Are you Seeking peace of mind, of heart of soul?

Come and see for yourself. Come and explore the Christian faith. Come and discuss with other seekers what is on your mind, what you cannot talk about except with other seekers. Come to an Alpha gathering.

Alpha is for everybody that wants to discuss seeking answers to life's big questions. Why are we here? Is this all there is to life? Where are we going? How do I attain peace of mind, heart, and soul? Whether you are young or old, have faith or are atheist or agnostic, Alpha provides a safe environment for exploring our big questions about life.

We begin by sharing a meal together and getting to know each other. We watch a video together then break into small groups for uninhibited discussion about what is on our minds.

The series runs for 12 weeks on Monday nights beginning at 7:30 p.m. and ending at 9:00 p.m. It will begin February 2nd, 2026, and end May 4th, 2026. Five of the sessions are live in person and the remainder are on Zoom. There is no cost to participate. You will need a desire for frank discussion, a willingness to participate and



a commitment to attend. You will also need a computer or smartphone capable of Zoom sessions.

The live in person sessions will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 1571 S. Martine Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ.

To register go onto IHMParish.net/Alpha.

If you have any questions, please call 908-889-2100.

LYDIA MASTERSON CELEBRATES 10 YEARS AS A LITERACY VOLUNTEER

Speaking with a teacher at a parent-teacher conference. Scheduling a medical appointment over the phone. Writing an invitation to a baby shower. If you speak English, these tasks are probably easy for you. But if English is not your native language, these tasks can be monumentally challenging.

That's where Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County (LVSC) comes in. LVSC promotes literacy throughout the community by providing student-centered tutoring and literacy programs for adults who struggle with English as a Second Language (ESL). The organization matches students with trained volunteer tutors, tutors like Watchung resident Lydia Masterson.

Noting that the "winter doldrums" were starting to take effect, Masterson signed up to become a volunteer tutor in January of 2015. "I had recently retired from teaching high school history and jumped at the opportunity to learn how to teach literacy. The training provided eased all fears," said Masterson. She has since tutored students from Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, South Korea, China and India.

Commenting on her LVSC experience Masterson said: "I've gained a deeper

appreciation for cultures other than my own and truly respect the motivation and determination of my students. To talk with others about life enriches my own journey."

LVSC is actively recruiting volunteers, like Masterson, to help meet the needs of the local community. An hour or two a week is all it takes to make a difference, and you don't have to be a teacher to be a tutor.

For more info, visit literacysomerset.org, email info@literacysomerset.org,



(above, l-r) Lydia Masterson, right, and student Catherine.

Teach English to a Local Adult



Do you like meeting people from different cultures?
Are you looking for a rewarding volunteer experience?
Can you read, write & speak English?
You can be an ESL tutor. Training is provided.

LVSC Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County

Literacy provides independence, opportunity, and hope.
Why wait? Get involved today.

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOLIDAY SOCIAL



The Linden Chamber Division of the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce held a holiday social networking event on Thursday, December 11th at the American Legion Post 102 in Linden. Attendees were treated to an evening of networking, wine, food, and holiday cheer.

Come grow your business with us! For more information on joining the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce and its benefits, please contact Jennifer M. Costa at 908-355-7600 or via email at jcosta@goelizabethnj.com. For more details, please visit elizabethchamber.com/linden.



BOY SCOUT FIREWOOD

Do you need firewood for your backyard chiminea, fireplace or wood-burning stove?. You can get well-seasoned split hardwood logs at St. Genevieve's Church, 200 Monmouth Road, Elizabeth, for less than what you pay in the supermarket. And at the same time, you will be supporting the camping program of Boy Scout Troop 23, including a campership fund that helps send financially-challenged Scouts to summer camp.

Help yourself from Webby's Wood Shed, located behind the Rectory near the garages that face 818 Livingston Road. Follow the directions on the envelopes provided to make a payment. Thank you for your support!





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The Gateway Family YMCA is a nonprofit organization
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- Never leave valuables in unattended vehicles.
- Always lock your vehicle.
- Notify the police of any suspicious activity.

TERENCE C. REILLY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA HOLIDAY PERFORMANCE

Elizabeth Rotary Club

The Terence C. Reilly Chamber Orchestra, led by Ms. Hsin-Ting Feng, continued their tradition of spreading joy throughout the community with

a special holiday performance for the Elizabeth Rotary Club. Their music filled the room with warmth and festive spirit. We were especially honored by a return visit from Mayor Bollawage,

who once again took the time to congratulate our young musicians on their dedication, talent, and service to the community. A truly inspiring morning for everyone!



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JANUARY PROGRAMS AT ELMORA LIBRARY

Registration for our programs will be on our website! Visit elizpl.org to check-out events!

Junior Chess Club

Friday, January 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 at 4 pm

Don't miss out on our Chess Club for Kids! We welcome beginners. Join us and let's play some chess!

Zumba Gold

Monday, January 5, 12, & 26,

Tuesday, January 6, 20, & 27, and

Thursday, January 8, 15, & 22 at 9 am

Add fitness to your daily routine through the joy of dance! Walk-ins are welcome.

Mahjong

Monday, January 5, 12, & 26

from 12 pm - 2 pm

Everyone who loves Mahjong is welcome to come & play at the library. Bring friends or come alone & find new partners. We'll provide the space for open play. A minimum of 4 players is required to play the game.

Ages: 18 & up

Tai Chi & Qi Gong

Monday, January 5, 12, & 26 at 4 pm and

Wednesday, January 7, 14, 21, & 28 at 9 am

Join Pete on Mondays and Wednesdays for Tai Chi, a gentle Chinese art that combines slow, flowing movements with deep breathing.

Experience the refreshing benefits of mindfulness!

CodeForward

Monday, January 5, 12, & 26

5 pm to 6:30 pm

At CodeForward, we're opening doors to the future— offering free coding education to kids who are ready to create, build, and lead. Our team brings years of experience in Java, Python, and other programming languages, gained through rigorous coursework at the Academy for Information Technology. *PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN ELECTRONIC DEVICE

The Rummikub Club

Tuesday, January 6, 13, 20, & 27 &

Thursday, January 8, 15, 22, & 29 at 10 am

Join us for a friendly game! Beginners are welcome!

Adult English Book Club

Tuesday, January 6 at 11 am

Join our Book Club meeting and engage in a lively discussion about our latest book.

Crochet with Sol

Tuesday, January 6, 13, & 20 at 12 pm

Learn the tips and tricks with Ms. Sol! She will teach you everything you need to know to get started.

Lunch & Learn: Fall Prevention

Tuesday, January 6 at 11 am

Join us for a helpful seminar on preventing falls. You will learn important tips and insights to keep yourself and people safe.

Self Expression Through Art: Who Are You?

Wednesday, January 7 at 4 pm

Join us for a fun collage class! Express yourself through art, explore materials, and enjoy a friendly space for feedback. We can't wait to see your creations! Age: 10 and up

Creative Knots with Pamela

Thursday, January 8, 15, 22, & 29 at 10 am

Discover macramé to create unique handcrafted items for your home and wardrobe. It's a relaxing craft for all skill levels, allowing you to express your creativity with various knots and designs.

Bubbles aRe Us

Saturday, January 10 at 1 pm

Located on 640 3rd Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ Join Ms. Martha for songs, stories, and crafts with LOADS of fun! This storytime will feature stories in English and Spanish for the whole family. FREE PIZZA!!!

Toddlers World

Friday, January 16 & 30 at 11 am

Fun songs to sing, music, and playtime.

Book Folding

Wednesday, January 14 at 2 pm

Explore the creative art of book folding by transforming books into eye catching decorative pieces.

Winter Animal Scavenger Hunt

Tuesday, January 20 to Saturday, January 24

Can you find all the images hidden in the Children's area? Get a small prize from our treasure chest when you complete the hunt!

My Memory Matters Workshop

Tuesday, January 20 at 9 am

This event is open to everyone aged 50 and older who is interested in learning about important lifestyle factors for healthy brain aging, advances in research, and clinical trials. On-site memory screenings will be available.

Stitch & Mending

Tuesday, January 20 at 10 am

and Wednesday, January 21 at 5 pm

Come to Elmora Library to mend your clothing.

Bring the article you need help with, and assistance will be provided.

Winter Storytime & Craft

Saturday, January 24 at 11 am

Step into a magical winter wonderland with Ms. Martha! Enjoy a fun craft that will spark your creativity and warm your heart.

Adult Bingo

Tuesday, January 27 at 11 am

Join us at the Elmora Branch Library for a fun-filled game of Bingo!

The Edible Book Club

Wednesday, January 28 at 1 pm

Welcome to The Edible Book Club, where cooking and reading come together! Each month, we explore a cookbook and bring its recipes to life. Join us to share experiences and enjoy delicious food. Come for the books and stay for the bites!

Adult Spanish Book Club

Wednesday, January 28 at 2 pm

Join Martha as she hosts a monthly book discussion for Spanish-speaking adults!

CAFE FOR THOSE WITH MEMORY LOSS

Christ Church, Summit, NJ

Too often, those living with memory loss can suffer from social stigma and isolation. A Memory Cafe is a social gathering for those living with cognitive loss, together with their care-partners. It's a welcoming community where all feel safe, accepted, and understood.

"The Gathering Place" is a monthly Memory Cafe hosted by volunteers at Christ Church in Summit. They meet the first Wednesday of every month, from 12 - 2 p.m.

Guests socialize over a light, nutritious lunch and share friendship, information, and often a few laughs. It is non-sectarian and all are welcome. From guests: "It was enjoyable, uplifting, and worthwhile," and "I wish my mother had something like this to participate in while she was able."

A suggested donation is \$5 per person.

RSVP is requested for menu-planning.

Contact Brenda Dodds 908 273-5549

or brenda@ccsnj.org.

Christ Church is located at

561 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ.

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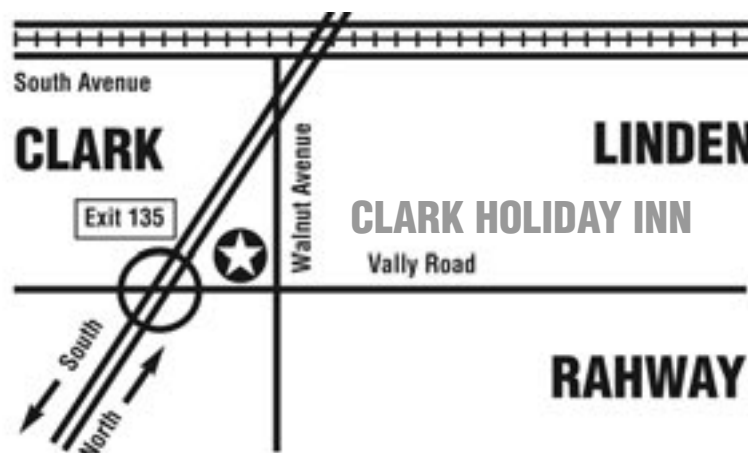
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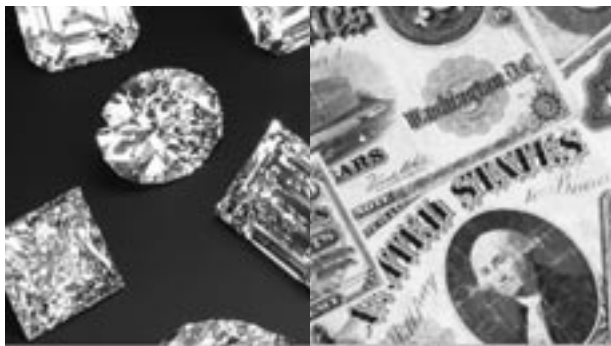
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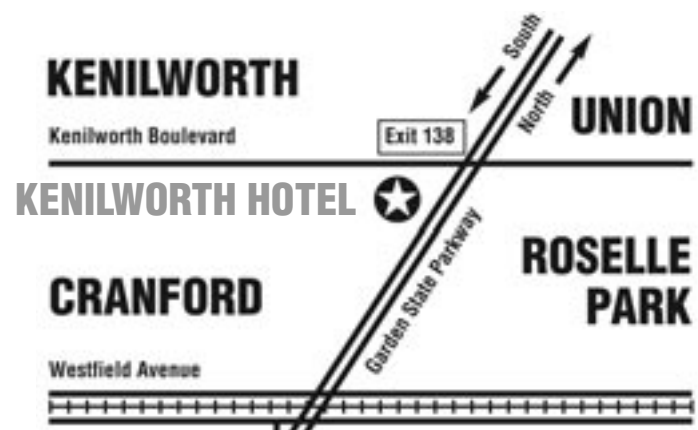
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MIRACLE ON WINFIELD SCOTT

The City of Elizabeth invited residents to 'Miracle on Winfield Scott' a holiday night out, held in front of city Hall on December 9th. There was a visit from Mr. & Mrs. Claus, fun activities, giveaways and a tree lighting ceremony.



Photos by City of Elizabeth

BROOK ARTS CENTER ANNOUNCES IT 2ND SPEAKEASY SOIREE AND SILENT AUCTION.

The historic Brook Arts Center is proud to announce its Second Annual Speakeasy Soirée & Silent Auction, Friday, January 23, 2026, at 7:00 PM. This Roaring '20s-themed evening promises an unforgettable night of glitz, glamour, entertainment, and support for one of Somerset County New Jersey's, historic landmarks.

Guests will be transported back to the golden age as they enjoy live music, period-inspired entertainment, and a lavish buffet.

The evening's highlight is a silent auction featuring more than 100 exclusive items, including a cruise getaway, a Bradford Portraits gift certificate with a private photo session, a 20-inch framed wall portrait and luxury hotel stay, four VIP tickets to Meadowlands Racing with dinner and winner's circle photos, designer handbags, sports memorabilia, dining and spa packages and so much more.

Tickets are \$50 per person or \$80 per couple and include buffet dining, live music, live

entertainment, and a cash bar.

Attendees are encouraged to dress in their finest 1920s-inspired attire to fully embrace the spirit of the evening.

The Speakeasy Soirée is the Brook Arts Center's largest fundraiser of the year.

As a fully volunteer-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Brook Arts Center relies on community support to continue with the preservation and restoration of the facility and its mission of providing high-quality entertainment, inspiring creativity, fostering community partnerships, and nurturing education and growth through the arts.

Tickets are on sale now through January 16, 2026.

To purchase tickets or learn more, visit www.brookarts.org.

Reserve your tickets today and be part of a glamorous night that helps keep the arts alive in our community.

+ BROOK +
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AND
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NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHORUS TO HOLD AUDITIONS

The New Jersey Youth Chorus (NJYC), a program of Wharton Arts, will hold mid-year auditions for select ensembles in January 2026 for singers in grades 3–12. Auditions provide young vocalists with the opportunity to join a vibrant choral community rooted in musical excellence, collaboration, and belonging. To register for an audition for NJYC's Primo Coro, Cor Amici, Sola Voce, and Camerata, visit NJYC.org.

"At NJYC, singing is just the beginning," said Trish Joyce, Founder and Director. "Through music, we cultivate connection, teamwork, and a deep sense of belonging, and our directors are excited to welcome new singers into our choral family."

Throughout the season, NJYC choristers participate in exceptional performance and educational opportunities at the local, regional, and national levels. Highlights this season include:

- Life of Song Festival in Washington, DC, for Sola Voce and Cor Amici
- "The Vocal Edge" Middle School Boys Festival

- "Together We Sing" Festival for Primo Coro
- Collaboration with the Maplewood Glee Club for Camerata
- Performance of the National Anthem for the New York Mets, featuring all NJYC choirs
- Choral Festival at Carnegie Hall for Camerata
- Sing a Mile High Festival in Denver, Colorado, for Sola Voce and Cor Amici

For more information, call (973) 998-5670 or email info@njyc.org.

Wharton Arts' mission is to offer accessible, high quality performing arts education that sparks personal growth and builds inclusive communities.

Wharton Arts' vision is for a transformative performing arts education in an inclusive community to be accessible for everyone.

Wharton Arts is New Jersey's largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center serving nearly 2,000 students through a range of classes and ensembles. The 5 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Chorus, an auditioned choral ensemble program for students in grades 3–12, encourage a love and appreciation of choral music while



nurturing personal growth and creative development. The 15 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Symphony, which serve over 500 students in grades 3–12 by audition, inspire young people to achieve musical excellence through high-level ensemble training and performance opportunities. Based in Paterson, the Paterson Music Project is an El Sistema-inspired program of Wharton Arts that uses music education as a vehicle for social action by empowering and inspiring young people to achieve their full potential through the community experience of ensemble learning and playing. From Pathways classes for young children to Lifelong Learning programs for adults, the Wharton Performing Arts School has a robust musical theater and drama program and offers both private and group classes for instruments and voice for all ages and all abilities. With the belief in the positive and unifying influence of music and that performing arts education should be accessible to all people regardless of their ability to pay, Wharton Arts offers need-based scholarships.

Wharton Arts is located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence, and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 12 counties. All of Wharton Arts' extraordinary teaching artists, faculty members, and conductors hold degrees in their teaching specialty and have been vetted and trained to enable our students to achieve their personal best.

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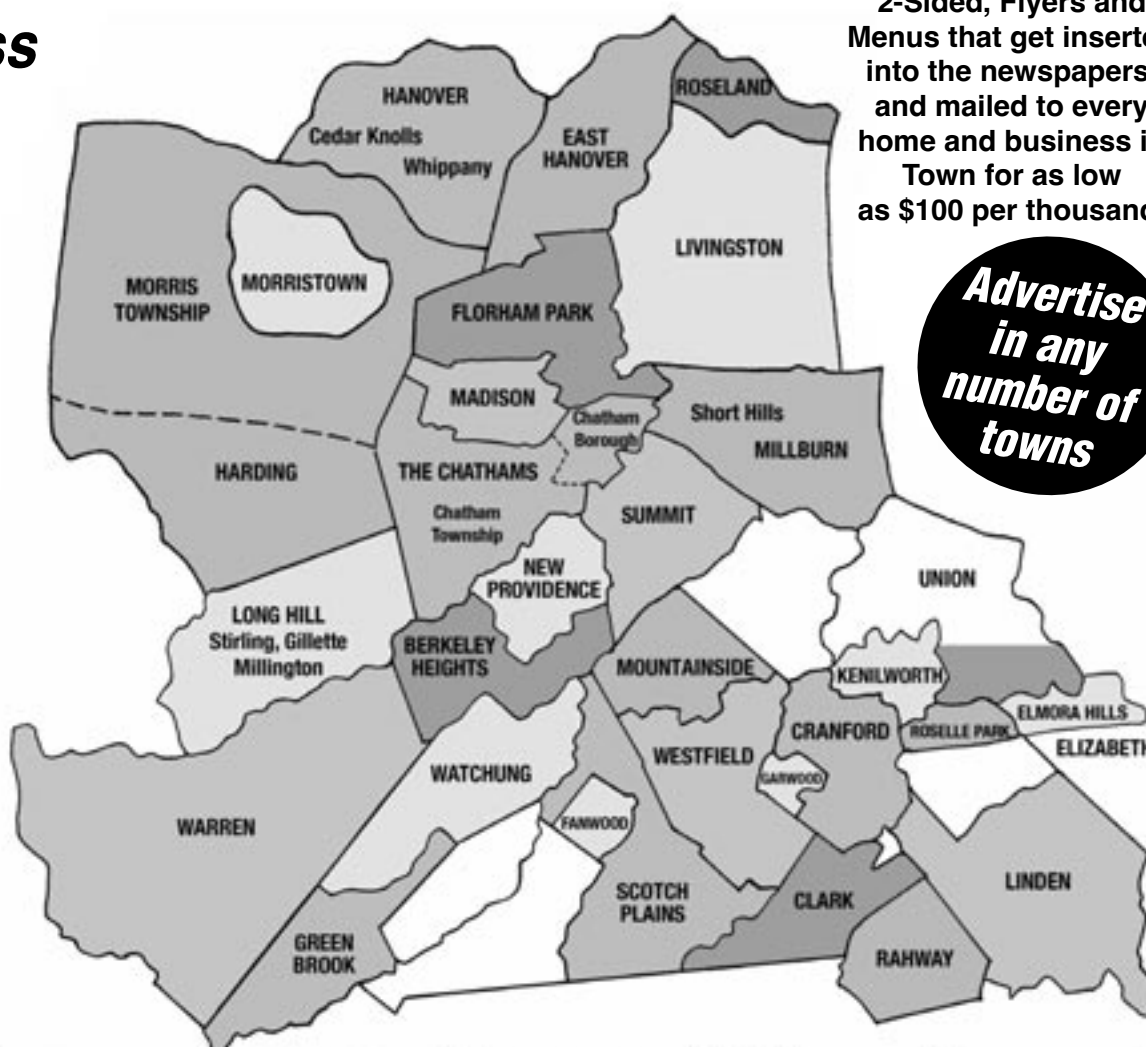
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1 Unit (Business card)	3.25"x2"0	100	260	360	460	560	600	660	700	800	900	1000
2 Units	6.5"x2" or 3.25"x4"	150	360	560	600	700	800	900	1000	1100	1200	1300
4 Units	3.25"x8" or 6.5"x4"	240	560	900	1000	1300	1600	1700	1800	1900	2000	2100
6 Units	6.5"x6.25" 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
18 FULL PAGE	10"x14"	500	1200	1800	2200	2500	2800	3000	3300	3600	3900	4300
2-PAGE SPREAD	(2) 10"x14"	800										
BACK PAGE	10"x14"	600										
FRONT PAGE BANNER	8.25"x2"	360										
FRONT PAGE BOX	1.5"x4.5"	320										

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STATE CANCELS LEGAL NOTICE MANDATE

We rarely ever hear about the government reducing taxes but it happened this year when New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy eliminated the mandate that legal notices must be printed in a newspaper.

The antiquated mandate is decades old and the cost for the advertising was paid for by public funds from municipalities, counties, school districts, and independent authorities. It was a lucrative business for the publications and more recently the majority of their revenue. Without the mandate the fear in the newspaper industry was that the publications relying on the legal advertising income will not survive.

In some cases the majority of content in the newspaper had been the legal ads. In question was the criteria for the mandate, i.e., were the publications meeting the required numbers of

paid subscriptions, and circulation.

The idea of doing away with the mandate, though practical, was considered political poison. No lawmaker wanted to be deemed responsible as the cause for newspapers' closures and people losing their jobs. During the Governor Christi administration the Star Ledger warned that doing away with the mandates would cause 250 weekly newspapers to close.

What brought about the change is a successful lawsuit filed by the County of Warren which named the Star Ledger and Daily Record as defendants. The suit may have been the last straw in the Ledger's decision to stop printing the newspaper in January of 2025.

Local governments will now be required to publish their legal notices on their websites.



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2

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3

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