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A JOYFUL AND INCLUSIVE HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Submitted by Qing Liu, LACD

More than 200 children and adults with special needs and their families gathered at the Livingston Senior/Community Center for a joyful and inclusive holiday celebration hosted by the Livingston Advisory Committee for Disabilities (LACD). The event welcomed families from across the community for an afternoon filled with food, music, creativity, and holiday cheer.

Guests enjoyed pizza, salad, drinks, snacks, and desserts while dancing to lively music provided by a live DJ. Arts and crafts stations offered creative fun for all ages, and Santa Claus made a special appearance, posing for photos and spreading smiles throughout the afternoon.

The holiday party was made even more meaningful by the strong show of community support. Livingston Township Council members, Alfred Anthony, Ketan Bhuptani, and Michael Vieira attended the celebration to show their encouragement and support for families of individuals with special needs.

LACD also expressed deep gratitude to its co-sponsors, the Livingston Education Association and the Livingston Township Recreation Department, for their generous support in making the event possible.

Representatives from the Livingston Education Association brought gifts for every guest with special needs, creating a memorable and touching moment for many families.

The event was powered by the dedication of volunteers, including members of the Livingston High School Key Club and LACD members, who helped with set-up, activities, food service, and guest support throughout the afternoon.

“Our goal is always to create a welcoming and joyful space where



(above) Chang Ma (LHS key club member),
Aily Wei (LACD student liaison)

individuals with special needs and their families feel celebrated and supported,” said the committee chairman, Bob Gebroe, “Seeing so many smiling faces today truly shows the power of community.”

LACD extends heartfelt thanks to all sponsors, volunteers, community partners, and families who helped make this holiday celebration a tremendous success.

Photos by Alyssa Zhang



(above, l-r) Livingston City Council member Michael Vieira, LACD
Chairman Bob Gebroe, Santa, Livingston City Council member Ketan
Bhuptani, and LACD member Qing Liu



(above) Livingston Education Association
President Melissa DeAngelus and PEP Chair
Ashley Begega

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Livingston MonthlyNJ

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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.

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COMMUNITY INVITED TO SUBURBAN CHIROPRACTIC OPEN HOUSE - JAN 8

LEG PAIN

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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.

Memory Cafe of Christ Church Summit

THE GATHERING PLACE

The first Wednesday of every month

12 noon to 2pm in Lile Hall



For those in the church and wider community with memory issues and their care partners.

The Suburban Chiropractic Center, located at 301 Main Street in Chatham, New Jersey will be celebrating 41 years in practice with an Open House on January 8, 2026. The public is invited to stop by and enjoy refreshments and fellowship. Community service is an integral part of the practice and Dr. Murphy would like to thank his patients, as well as the local community for another successful year.

Dr. Joseph J. Murphy began the center in 1985 to offer the community a natural alternative to the traditional allopathic medical facilities in the Chatham area. They owe their success to the loyal patients who have continued with them, referred their friends and family, and their efforts to provide the highest level of service possible.

Dr. Murphy has a record of supporting the local first responders, police, fire, and emergency squad. He also focused on supporting student programs including being an advisor to the Kiwanis Club's Chatham High School Key Club. Dr. Murphy has been a member of the Chatham/Madison Kiwanis Club for over 40 years, offering his services to all their events including being a guest speaker. He especially enjoys the Summer Hot Dog & Ice Cream social for the Chatham Library children. He can be found volunteering at Chatham schools during their Teacher's Wellness Day events and is a supporter of the Chatham Education Foundation

and Sports Foundation. For 25 years Dr. Murphy has served on the Board of Trustees of ECLC in Chatham, a school for special needs students, including a stint as Board President. He was a consistent participant in over 23 Fishawack events and is a sponsor of Bottle Hill Day in Madison. He is a member of the Madison Elks BPOE 1465 and Chatham Chamber of Commerce, where he has served as President.

You can find out much more about the Suburban Chiropractic Center by visiting their website at drmurphy.com.



(above) Dr. Joseph Murphy has been a member of Kiwanis Club for over 35 years.



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Sun, Feb 1:	Montclair Art Museum, Montclair 3 S Mountain Ave, Montclair
Sat, Feb 7:	Livingston YMCA 321 S Livingston Ave, Livingston
Sat, Feb 21:	Morris Museum, Morristown 6 Normandy Heights Rd, Morristown
Sun, Feb 22:	Village of Ridgewood 131 N Maple Ave, Ridgewood (next to Library)
Sat, Feb 28:	Menlo Park Mall, Edison 55 Parsonage Rd, Edison

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HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC TEAM TRIPLE CROWN WINNERS

Congratulations to the Livingston High School Academic Team A which recently won the Princeton High School Academic Tournament (PHSAT) for the third year in a row! The reigning National Champions defeated 25 teams to start

their 2026 season strong. Quiz bowl is as a game/sport/academic competition/lifestyle in which teams test their knowledge in a variety of subjects. Congratulations to Team A (Arav Kaushik,

Ethan Liu, Benjamin Laskov, Kenneth Wu) for their decisive victory, and to Teams B (T-5th) and C (13th) for an excellent start to the season! Thank you to mentor Ms. Brynn Smith for her guidance.

Photo by Livingston Public Schools



FORMAL WEAR DRIVE FOR TEENS

Livingston Public Library

Do you have an old party dress collecting dust in your closet? A suit you wore to Junior Prom that you've outgrown? Give it new life and donate to the Livingston Library's Youth/Teen Formal Wear Drive!

We're collecting gently used or new formal wear to help kids in our community get ready for special events like prom, special parties, and more.

Drop off dresses, suits, dress shirts & ties and dress shoes, in the bin located in the Youth Wing, beginning on November 3rd through January 26th. All items should be clean and in good, wearable condition.

All donated formal wear will be distributed at the library on Saturday, January 31st. More details about that event will follow.

Your tax-deductible donation can help another child shine and feel confident & ready to celebrate. Let's help each other dress to impress, one outfit at a time!

All the best,
Amy Babcock, Director

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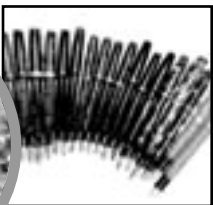
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JANUARY SPEAKERS PROGRAM FOR THE SUMMIT AREA OLD GUARD

The Summit Area Old Guard is a social, educational, and recreational organization that serves men of retirement age. We meet Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., at the New Providence Presbyterian Church located at 1307 Springfield Ave – we encourage visitation, and all are welcome. Our motto is “Come for the Programs. Stay for the Friends.” The organization was founded in 1930. Our website address is summitoldguard.org.

In January, we will have four speakers:
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6TH: RICHARD LANDER
Shares a deep, personal connection to the Civil War as the great-grandson of John R. Lander, a Union soldier. John emigrated from Germany and enlisted with an Illinois regiment at the remarkably early age of fourteen, serving for the entire duration of the war. This military service instilled a generational interest: members of the

Lander family have continuously studied the Civil War and maintained membership in the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). In his presentation, Richard will detail the complex tapestry of events that led to the conflict, covering the cultural, political, economic, and military factors at play. Attendees are encouraged to note the striking parallels between these historical forces and current events.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13TH: DR. DEAN EPPLER

Though the Apollo Program was a revolutionary 20th-century achievement, many of its difficulties and successes have faded into historical obscurity. Dr. Dean Eppler, a retired NASA scientist with over 35 years in human spaceflight, possesses the breadth of experience to bring the mission into focus. His background includes Apollo Program history, advanced space suit engineering, ISS facility development, and training/selecting astronauts (1990, 1996, and 1998 selections). Dr. Eppler will identify the key areas of the mission's success and discuss Apollo's enduring contributions to human spaceflight.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20TH: HOWARD MEYER

A long-time leader in New Jersey volunteer EMS. He is the past president of the EMS Council of New Jersey, the country's largest volunteer squad association, and served as its volunteer legislative director for over 20 years. Since 1971, he has served in leadership roles, including president and chief, across all types of New Jersey environments—rural, suburban, and urban. Howard will detail the history and evolution of the volunteer EMS system, highlighting its critical importance to the state. His talk will cover key events and the major challenges volunteer squads face moving forward.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27TH: BOB GULA

The Forgotten Victory Trail explores one of America's most overlooked Revolutionary chapters in the brutal campaigns of 1780 in NJ, when burning towns, secret networks, and fierce local resistance helped turn the tide of the war. The Battles of Springfield and Connecticut Farms in June 1780 were critical in the defense of New Jersey (and Washington's forces in Morristown) and in the weakening of the British Forces ahead of the Battle of Yorktown. Our speaker will be Bob Gula, Education Officer –West Fields Chapter of Sons of the American Revolution Patriotic Instructor, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Member and General Society of Mayflower Descendants.



(above, l-r) Richard Lander, Dr. Eppler, Howard Meyer, Robert Gula

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or visit chathamseiorcenter.org.

Alzheimer's NJ Caregiver Support Group
Thursday, Jan. 8, 10:30 a.m.
This group provides families and caregivers with the emotional support and education they need to better understand Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia. A trained facilitator guides the group. Visit alznj.org to register and learn about their additional programs, or call the Center.

Plastics & Health
Monday, Jan. 12, 11:00 a.m.
Learn about plastics, why recycling is not an option, and steps to reduce exposure to its harmful impacts.

Problems Falling & Staying Asleep
Wednesday, Jan. 14, 1:00 a.m.
Learn how sleep problems, sleep schedules, and bedtime habits can affect your daily life.

Classical Piano Performance
Monday, Jan. 19, 1:00 p.m.

Luc Reyes, a 17-year-old, who has received multiple awards at prestigious piano competitions will perform classical pieces.

Photography Group: Smartphone Cameras
Wednesday, Jan. 21, 11:00 a.m.
This meeting focuses on taking pictures with cell phones.

Benefits of Walking in Winter
Monday, Jan. 26, 1:00 p.m.
Learn the benefits of outdoor walking adventures.

Salute to Sondheim, His Songs & Shows
Tuesday, Jan. 27, 12:00 p.m.
Hear about the unforgettable work of Stephen Sondheim - from his iconic Broadway hits to his boundary-pushing storytelling techniques.

Aging with Intention: Rewriting Your Narrative
Wednesday, Jan. 28, 12:00 p.m.

This presentation discusses Positive Psychology principles that promote vitality, engagement, meaning, and accomplishment - and ways to enhance overall health and happiness while aging.



(above) Our thanks to the Town and Country Garden Club of Chatham for returning to teach the always-popular holiday centerpiece project.

Courtesy Photo

BECOME A LITERACY NJ VOLUNTEER TUTOR

Literacy New Jersey
Literacy New Jersey announces its winter Tutor Information Session on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 6 p.m. The Tutor Information Session is a prerequisite to registering for Literacy NJ's Tutor Training Program. The Tutor Training Program consists of 5 sessions starting on Wednesday, January 21 and will provide tutor trainees with the tools and strategies necessary for working with adult students in one of three categories: English As A Second Language (ESL), High School Equivalency (GED), or Basic Skills.

All training sessions will be conducted online via Zoom. The five required training sessions will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays. The dates are: January 21, 26, 28 and February 2 & 4 from 6 to 8 p.m. After completing the training sessions, tutors are matched with a small group of adult students from the growing waiting list of students who need to improve their literacy skills. Tutors meet with their students either online or in person in libraries throughout Union or Middlesex County for 2 hours each week. After training, tutor trainees may be matched with a tutor mentor to guide them through their first lesson plans. New tutor volunteers are asked to make a commitment of at least 50 hours of instruction with students.

Neil Esposito, a Literacy New Jersey volunteer ESL tutor said: "I'm passionate about sharing my time and ability with my students. It gives me great pleasure to witness the progress of my students over the semesters. Several of my students have reached important, personal goals directly linked to their English language progress.

One student has taken on an important telephone-based role in her husband's construction business, talking daily with English speaking clients. Another has passed her certification exam as a bi-lingual teacher's aide in a middle school. These achievements, among numerous others, are the rewards and blessings that make being a literacy volunteer a highlight

of my life."

Literacy New Jersey provides ongoing supervision and support to tutors in the form of free Professional Development workshops on specific topics such as Computer Skills for ESL students, ESL Conversation, Citizenship and Job Readiness.

To volunteer, you must be at least 18 years old, able to speak English and willing to tutor in Union or Middlesex County. You do not need to have any teaching experience and you do not need to speak a foreign language. The training will provide volunteers with techniques and strategies for working with adult learners, as well as sample instructional materials and activities. There is a \$25 registration fee to cover the cost of books and materials. Literacy New Jersey is a non-profit organization.

For more information or to register for the Tutor Information Session on Wednesday January 7, 2026, please call Literacy New Jersey at 908-486-1777 x400 or email Barbara Bagger, Program Director, at bbagger@literacynj.org.



(above) Make a difference, become a Literacy NJ volunteer tutor. For more information, or to register for the Tutor Information Session on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, please call Literacy New Jersey at 908-486-1777 x400 or email Barbara Bagger, Program Director, at bbagger@literacynj.org.

Courtesy Photo



(above) Recent graduates

HICKORY TREE CHORUS INVITES ACAPPELLA SINGERS TO OPEN AUDITIONS

The award-winning Hickory Tree Chorus is calling singers in the soprano, alto, and contralto ranges to join their harmonious sisterhood!

Performing in communities throughout northern and central New Jersey, the chorus enjoys singing recognizable popular songs - arranged in rich four-part harmony.

Fresh off their top-scoring performance at the 2025 Sweet Adelines Region 15 competition, the

chorus has earned a coveted spot in the Harmony Classic at the 78th Annual Sweet Adelines International Competition in Columbus, Ohio, October 2026. Now, they're building their sound for the world stage.

Open auditions will be held in Stirling between 6:30-7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in January 2026 and take less than 10 minutes (flexible scheduling is available). Singers are

asked to perform a brief acappella song of their choice. No experience required, just a love of singing and a desire to grow.

This is more than a chorus—it's a sisterhood, a mission, and a moment. Will your voice be part of it?

For details and to schedule your audition, email us at info@hickorytreechorus.org or call 908-377-1399.



(above) The award-winning Hickory Tree Chorus invites you to join the sisterhood. For details and to schedule your audition, email us at info@hickorytreechorus.org or call 908-377-1399.

Courtesy Photo

GIRLS SOCCER TEAM WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Livingston High School girls soccer team won the NJSIAA Championship. The championship game was played at Franklin High

School on Sunday, November 23, 2025. They defeated the Franklin High School Cherokees, 3-1, in penalty kicks to capture the NJSIAA, Group

VI, State Championship! The team was honored by the Board of Education during a meeting held on Dec. 9th.

Photo by Livingston Public Schools



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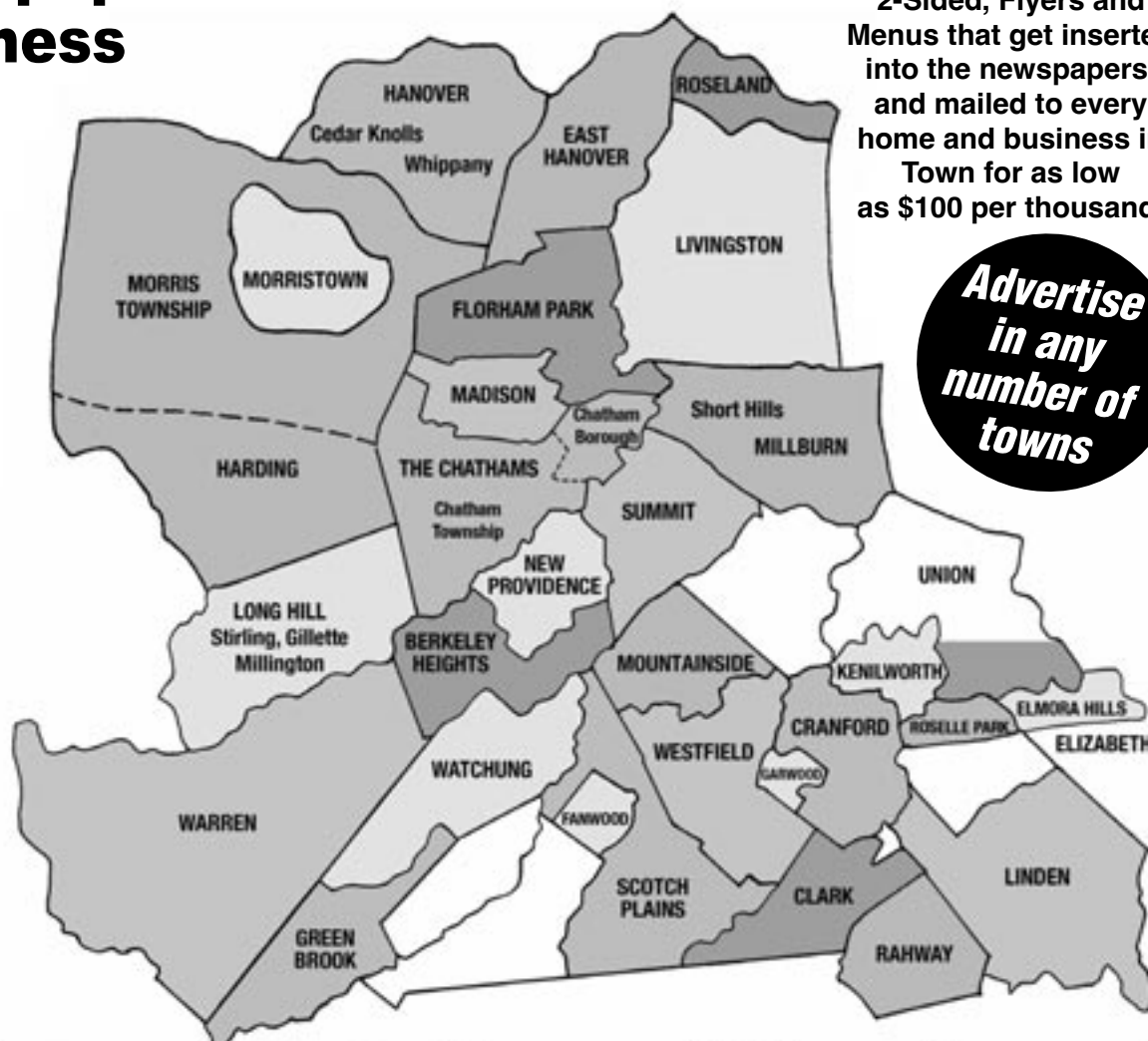
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NEWSPAPER AD RATES		1	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30
Units (wide x High)	Size	TOWN	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS
1 Unit (Business card)	3.25"x2"0	100	260	360	460	560	600	660	700	800	900	1000
2 Units	6.5"x2" or 3.25"x4"	150	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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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 adverting 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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