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TIMES NJ

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ROTARY AWARDS GRANT TO FAMILY PROMISE

Morristown Rotary Club

The Morristown Rotary Club is proud to announce it has awarded a \$2,000 grant to Family Promise of Morris County (FPMC) to improve the storage and distribution of vital supplies for their clients.

The grant will fund the purchase and installation of a much-needed outdoor storage shed for FPMC's Our Promise Drop-in Resource Center, located at the First Baptist Church in downtown Morristown.

The new, secure shed will be used to organize and store essential donations, including:

Move-in kits (bedding and housewares), hygiene kits and personal care items, and clothing and seasonal gear

These items are critical resources provided by the center to support individuals experiencing homelessness, particularly those living unsheltered in the Morristown area. Limited storage space has previously hindered FPMC's ability to efficiently manage and distribute these life-changing resources.

"The work Family Promise does to support our most vulnerable neighbors is essential, and the Morristown Rotary is honored to contribute to their mission," said Aaron Oliver, President of Morristown Rotary. "This storage shed may seem like a simple addition, but it represents a powerful step toward ensuring that vital supplies are readily available when someone needs them most, improving the efficiency and impact of the Promise Center."

A hub for critical services, Family Promise of Morris County has served the community for 37 years and, in 2024 alone, their Our Promise Center served 355 unduplicated individuals and recorded 4,031 face-to-face contacts.

The Drop-in Center provides a safe place and access to critical resources, including:

- A mailing address, phone, and computer access
- Cooling/warming center services
- Benefits screening and case management
- Referrals to housing and health services

This funding solves a real logistical challenge. The new storage shed means dedicated staff and



(above, l-r) Joann Bjornson of Family Promise of Morris County, and Denise Flanagan of Morristown Rotary Club.

over 1,600 volunteers can more effectively organize and distribute donations, allowing them to focus energy on providing the direct support and housing solutions clients depend on.

The project is slated to begin on January 1, 2026, and is expected to be completed within 90 days.

ABOUT MORRISTOWN ROTARY CLUB

The Morristown Rotary Club is part of Rotary International, a global network of community volunteers. The club brings together community members dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges, and focuses its local efforts on promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, supporting education, saving mothers and children, and growing local economies. For more information visit: morristownrotary.org

ABOUT FAMILY PROMISE OF MORRIS COUNTY (FPMC)

Family Promise of Morris County is a non-sectarian, non-profit organization dedicated to ending the crisis of homelessness in Morris County by partnering with the community to provide shelter, comprehensive services, and permanent housing solutions.

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MORRIS TOWNSHIP TIMES^{NJ}

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SEND US YOUR NEWS

Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (honor, award, etc.), send us your news! Email: editor@rennamedia.com



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and on [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/RennaMedia)

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

Morris School District

We are incredibly proud of our dedicated staff members who presented at the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS) annual conference held in Washington, D.C. over the December 6th weekend.



(above) Amy Bozza (Morristown High School) shared insights on "Rewriting the Narrative: Centering Diverse Voices in Global and European History."



(above) Gloria Culmone (Normandy Park School) presented "Empowering Multilingual Voices: Exploring Democratic Dialogues Through Rules and Laws."

Photos by Morris School District



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Just a half mile from the Murrow Station, Providence Place offers a unique experience in a serene, tree-lined neighborhood. The development features transit-friendly community features, including a bus stop, bike racks, and a walking path.

Providence Place offers a variety of apartment and townhome options, including one-bedroom, two-bedroom, and three-bedroom apartments as well as two-bedroom and three-bedroom with den townhomes with private garages. Convenient to local shops, parks, and New Providence's top-rated schools, Providence Place offers a luxuriously amenitized lifestyle that includes an expansive clubhouse, a resort-style pool, and a state-of-the-art fitness center.

an unparalleled luxury rental experience in a highly desirable New Providence. This development will offer one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments as well as two-bedroom and three-bedroom with den townhomes with private garages. Convenient to local shops, parks, and New Providence's top-rated schools, Providence Place offers a luxuriously amenitized lifestyle that includes an expansive clubhouse, a resort-style pool, and a state-of-the-art fitness center.

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All renderings, amenities, existing or future views and photos depicted or otherwise described herein are proposed and conceptual only, and are based upon preliminary development plans, which are subject to withdrawal, revisions, and other changes without notice.

G Garden
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COMMUNITY INVITED TO SUBURBAN CHIROPRACTIC OPEN HOUSE - JAN 8

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



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

LEG PAIN

You Don't Have To Live With It!

That "searing, burning pain" in your thigh and calf... that "aching, numbing" feeling in your hip and buttocks... that "tingling" in your foot and toes and loss of balance... It interferes with your ability to walk, to ride a bicycle, play golf, garden... to have **FUN IN LIFE!**

Leg pain, thigh ache and numbness, and tingling in the foot may actually be caused by a pinched back nerve even though you have NO back pain - it could even be Sciatica.

Dr. Murphy is an expert at finding the CAUSE of your leg pain and numbness and **CORRECTING IT... WITHOUT THE USE OF DRUGS OR SURGERY.**

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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.

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TECH HELP

**Tues through Thurs, 11 AM - 3 PM,
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Our Librarians can assist with computer, smartphone and tablet/Kindle basics, MS Office & Google Suite (Word, Excel, Gmail, Google docs, etc.) and more! We also help with our

Library resources like Libby, Kanopy, and research databases. Please come with one clear goal for the session, and bring all devices and passwords. Sessions limited to one per person per week. Call 973-538-2592 for more info.

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALES:
every Tuesday and the 1st and 3rd Saturday
from 10 AM - 2 PM.**

Cash or checks only please. Donations for the sale are happily accepted inside the Library during all open hours. For more info, email friends@mmt.mainlib.org New inventory added weekly!

NOT JUST BOOKS!

We have an extensive "Library of Things" collection available to borrow including technology & photography devices, games & sports equipment, craft supplies, jigsaw puzzles and local Museum passes!

ADULT PROGRAMS:

Claude Monet and Venice - 2 parts

**Wednesdays, January 21 and 28 at 7 PM
on Zoom**

Claude Monet is one of the most recognizable and celebrated figures in art history and painted the grandeur of Venice to much acclaim. This 2-part lecture will depict Monet's journey from a rejected outsider to a ground-breaking icon and dazzle us with his Venetian masterpieces as well as show a variety of works by other artists also inspired by Venice. Presented by Janet Mandel. Register online at mmtlibrary.libcal.com.

Yoga

Every Monday at 6 PM & Thursday at 10 AM
All levels from beginner to advanced

Qigong

Every Saturday at 9:30 AM

Qigong is a traditional Chinese mindful exercise system. No previous experience or special equipment required.

Chess Club

**The first & third Thursdays of each month,
5:30 - 8:30 PM, Jan 8 & 15**

Please note this is not a class, players are expected to know the rules of play. Please bring your own chess set.

Library Stamp Club

Stamp collecting fun & information!
Jan 8, 10 - 11 AM

Knitting & Needlework Group (In-Person)

**Second and fourth Fridays of each month
from 1 - 3 PM, Jan 9 & 23**

Bring your latest project- knitting, crochet, needlepoint. Everyone is welcome.

(ZOOM) Foreign Film Lovers Club: "Breathless"

Wednesday, January 7, 7-8 PM

"Breathless" by Jean-Luc Godard. For the Zoom code, please email james.collins@mmt.mainlib.org and include your name.

Memoir Writing Workshop: For Veterans And Their Families

A free, 8-week workshop series is to help you build the confidence and skills needed to tell yours. Open to veterans and their families aged 55+, a major goal for participants is to delve deeper into the creative process and hone their craft while bringing their personal stories to the page. Registration is free and required. Please email info@artsbythepeople.org with "Veterans Creative Writing Class" in the subject line to register.

MONTHLY BOOK CLUBS: Silent Book Club

First Sunday of the month, Jan 4, 2-3 PM

A gathering for book enthusiasts seeking a quiet communal reading experience!

The Seekers Book Club

1st Wednesday of every month at 7 PM, Jan 7

We discuss all things related to spirituality, self-help, motivation, and inspiration. "Ghosts of the Tsunami: Death and Life in Japan's Disaster Zone" by Richard Lloyd Parry.

Book Lovers Circle

**First Thursday of the month
at 7 PM on Zoom, Jan 8**

Email morristownreaders@mmt.mainlib.org for the Zoom code.

Virtual Classics Book Club

Every other month at 7 PM on Zoom, Jan 15

Email morristownreaders@mmt.mainlib.org with the subject line "VCBC Zoom Code" for the code. "Native Son" by Richard Wright

Morning Book Club

2nd Thursday of the month at 10 AM, Jan 8

"Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver

Evening Book Club

Third Tuesday of the month at 7 PM, Jan 20

"Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS:

Baby Stories & Songs

**Every other Monday at 10:30 AM,
Jan 12 & 26**

Age 6 months - 2 years.

Children's Storytime

Starting January 13

Tuesdays & Wednesdays at 10 AM

Saturdays at 11 AM

Ages 2 - 8

Book Clubs

Winter book clubs meet monthly through May.

Registration is required.

2nd - 3rd Grade Book Club

**Meets the third Thursday of every month
at 6 PM.**

**The Haunted Library by Dori Hillestad Butler,
Jan 15**

4th - 6th Grade Book Club

**Meets the second Thursday of every month
at 7 PM**

**"The Mona Lisa Vanishes" by Nicolas Day,
Jan 8**

TEEN PROGRAMS:

Registration is required for all teen programs

Teen Winter Book Club

**Monthly in the afternoon,
for teens in grades 7 - 12.**

We provide the book.

"The Marrow Thieves" by Cherie Dimaline,

Monday, Jan 12, 5 PM

Journaling for Teens

Monday, Jan 5, 5 PM

Join us in the Kirby Gallery for a mostly quiet time to journal, plus a brief exploration of a fun new technique each month.

Teen Spice Club

Wednesday, Jan 14, 4 PM

Join us in the Tech Room to mix herbs and spices at your very own mixing station.

Teen Craft Night

Monday, Jan 19, 5 PM

Get creative as we make polymer clay earrings, paper beads, & a paper bag journal

Stories and Stitches for Teens

Monday, Jan 26, 5 PM

Bring whatever you're reading and whatever you're stitching--crocheting, knitting, or needlework--and enjoy a cozy hour of sharing books and projects with fellow makers!

How to Write a Winning College Essay

Monday, Jan 26, 7 PM

Join us in the Meeting Room to learn how to write a stellar college essay!

EMERGENCY CALL BOXES

Morris Township

To enhance community safety and ensure fast access to emergency services, Emergency Call Boxes are installed at each of our firehouses. These units provide direct, one-touch communication with 9-1-1 and are marked by a bright blue light above each call box for easy visibility.

Please remember that these call boxes are intended for emergency use only. They should not be used to request entry to the firehouse or for any non-emergency needs.



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WINTER FARMER'S MARKET

The Grow It Green Winter Market located at Convent Train Station, is now open every Sunday, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., December through April for your favorite local flavors and farm-fresh finds.

Bundle up, bring the whole family, and enjoy delicious food, great company, and community vibes—all outdoors!

Fresh, locally grown produce and microgreens.
Farm-raised meat and eggs.
Artisan bread, baked goods, and cheese.
Mushrooms, honey, syrups, and sauces.

FOOD DRIVE - OPERATION FULL TABLE

Morris Township Department of Health

This winter, the Township of Morris is seeking food donations for individuals and families in need in our community.

Food collected will be distributed to local pantries that serve our local community.

Please check expiration dates, food pantries cannot distribute expired food.

DROP OFF:

Morris Township Municipal Building,
Main Lobby Vestibule, 50 Woodland Ave.

Please check expiration dates,
food pantries cannot distribute expired food.

DONATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING ARE NEEDED:

- Instant mashed potatoes, stuffing
- Canned yams or sweet potatoes
- Canned vegetables (corn, peas, beans)
- Cranberry sauce
- Juice (100% fruit juice) 64 oz.
- Turkey gravy (no glass jars, please)
- Muffin or roll mix
- Dessert mixes and icing
- Hearty soup
- Coffee, tea, Hot cocoa mix

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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

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

MORRIS COUNTY LIBRARY JANUARY EVENTS

30 E Hanover Ave, Whippoorwill, NJ 07981 • (973) 285-6930 • www.mclib.info

Lunch & Learn: Wills, Trusts, & Estates

Fri., Jan. 23, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

with Morris County Surrogate Heather J. Darling: Surrogate Darling will discuss wills, trusts, and estates.

Registration is required at tinyurl.com/mcl-lunch6.

Celebrate 250:

Music of the American Revolution:

Tue., Jan. 27, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Anne and Ridley Enslow return for an entertaining evening of 18th-century songs about the struggle for American independence. No registration; seats are limited and first-come, first-seated.

ALL AGES

Chess Club

Wed., Jan. 14, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Friendly & non-competitive chess games between players of all ages and ability levels.

No registration.

Spanish Conversation

Thu., Jan. 29, 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. For teens and adults in the Conference Room

ADULTS

Computer Classes for Adults

January classes include PC Basics, Excel I, II, & III, Internet Basics, Online Spam & Phishing, and Intro to Excel Tables. Schedule and registration (required) at: mclib.info/Programs/Computer-Classes

YOUTH/TEEN FORMAL WEAR DRIVE

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

Friday Afternoon Movies at 2:00 p.m.

no registration:

1/9: "Relay"

1/16: "The Untouchables"

1/30: "Eleanor the Great"

True Crime Chat (Via Zoom)

Thu., Jan. 8, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Virtual true crime discussion group meets via Zoom on the second Thursday evening of each month. The Zoom link will be emailed to you shortly before the program start time. Register at tinyurl.com/mcltruecrime

Tuesday Book Club

Tue., Jan. 13, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

January's book: The Ten Thousand Doors of January by Alix E. Harrow. No registration.

Socrates Cafe

Tue., Jan. 20, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

A discussion group using the dialogue of the Socratic Method. No registration.

Mystery Book Club

Mon., Jan. 26, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

January's book: The Moonstone by Wilkie Collins. No registration.

Writers Circle

Wed., Jan. 28, 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.

CHILDREN

Winter Bingo Reading Challenge

Mon., Jan. 5 through Sat., Jan. 31

Complete a bingo card and return it to the Children's Room for a prize. For ages birth-12. No registration.

SISTERS OF ST. BRIGID

In December the Sisters of St. Brigid, a Morristown area non-profit women's social organization that celebrates Irish culture, collected preemie diapers and donations for Lily's Hope Foundation, a non-profit that supports babies, children and their families with unexpected and urgent needs due to premature birth. For more information, or to become a member of the SOSB visit sosb.nj.org. 2026 scheduled meetings: January 14, February 11, April 8, June 10, October 14, and November 11.



Paws for Reading

Thu., Jan. 22, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Read to a very patient therapy dog! For ages 5-

12. Registration (required) begins 1/13 at:

tinyurl.com/mcl-paws1

in the Children's Room

LEGO Club

Sat., Jan. 24, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Create and build using LEGO! For ages 4-12.

Registration (required) begins 1/13 at:

tinyurl.com/mcl-lego5

Preschool Storytime & Music w/Mr. Laurence:

Tuesday, Jan. 27, 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Stories, fingerplays and music with Mr. Laurence. For ages 2-5. No registration.

Memory Cafe of Christ Church Summit

THE GATHERING PLACE

The first Wednesday of every month

12 noon to 2pm
in Lile Hall

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.

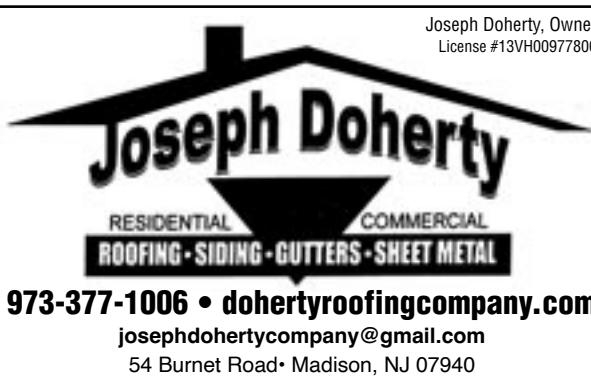
Guests socialize over a light, nutritious lunch and share friendship, information, and often a few laughs. It is non-sectarian and all are welcome. From guests: "It was enjoyable, uplifting, and worthwhile," and "I wish my mother had something like this to participate in while she was able."

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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Zip: 07932

**Garwood
Times** NJ

Qty: 2,500

Zip: 07027

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Brook
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Qty: 3,300

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TOWNSHIP
PRESS** NJ

Qty: 6,100

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**KENILWORTH
NJ**

Qty: 3,500

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Qty: 18,000

Zip: 07036

**Livingston
Monthly** NJ

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**Long Hill
LEADER** NJ

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07946, 07980

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MONTHLY** NJ

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TIMES** NJ

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MONTHLY** NJ

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**Westfield
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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										
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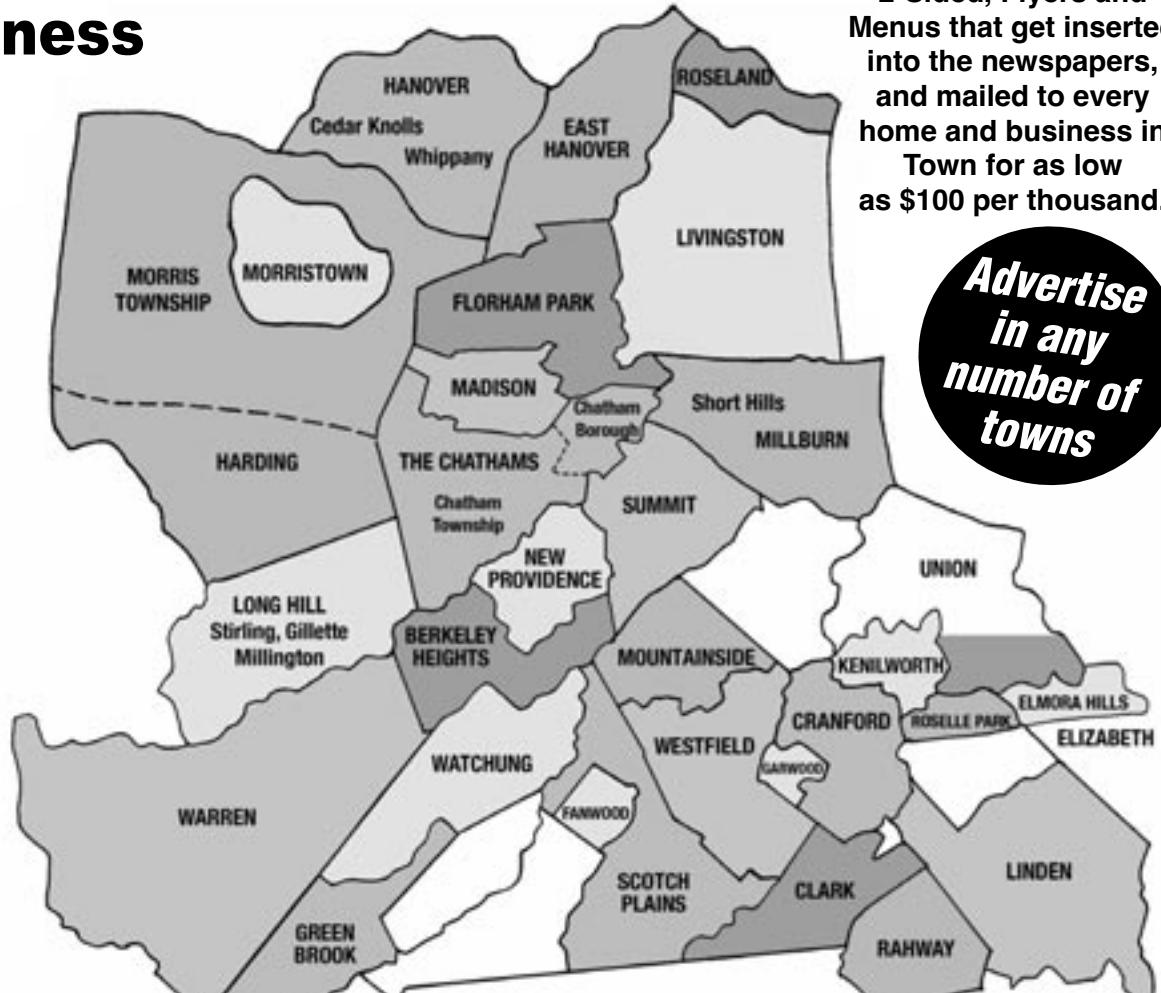
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STATE CANCELS LEGAL NOTICE MANDATE

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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