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WINTER WONDERLAND & HOLIDAY VILLAGE

Union's annual Winter Wonderland Weekend & Holiday Village returned to Town Hall. The two-day was presented on Friday, December 5th, and Saturday, December 6th. It featured an "ice" skating rink, strolling characters and carolers, over 40 Holiday Vendor Village, inflatables, a trackless train, Santa's Workshop, gingerbread house & cookie demo, live entertainment, food trucks, a curling lane, photos with Santa, and more!



Photos by Township of Union

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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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STUDENTS ORGANIZE FOOD DRIVE FOR ST. MIKE'S

The classes of Ms. Musarra and Ms. Motta, at Union High School, collaborated and organized a food drive to donate to the food pantry at St. Michaels Church.



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?
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LVSC Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County

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

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WRESTLING TEAM TAKES 1ST PLACE AT HOLIDAY WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

Union High School Wrestling brought home 1st Place at the Kris Hicok Holiday Wrestling Tournament 2025!

An incredible showing of hard work, grit, and

determination by our Farmers on the mat. Congratulations to our wrestlers and coaches on this well-earned victory — the first of many this season!



Photo by Township of Union Public Schools

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.

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OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 22, 2026

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Sunday, January 25, 2026

11:00 pm - 1:30 pm

PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL FOR MORE INFORMATION

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SMALL BUSINESS MENTORING HELP MILITARY VETERANS SUCCEED

SCORE Central Jersey

During National Military Appreciation Month and beyond, SCORE mentors offer resources for veterans to start and grow their entrepreneurial enterprises.

Veterans' training, resolve and fortitude to overcome challenges make them the ideal entrepreneur. They soar as small business owners. According to research, 80 percent of the 1.7 million veteran-owned business owners consider themselves successful. The small business five-year survival rate for veterans is double that of the non-veteran population.

Data from the U.S. Small Business Administration has shown that small business owners with an established mentor have twice the success rate – 70 percent versus 35 percent – as those who do not have a mentor.

In conjunction with National Military Appreciation Month in May, SCORE, a national nonprofit organization that assists small businesses, has developed specific resources for use by its 10,000 mentors nationally in mentoring veterans.

The SCORE Veterans Small Business



(above) Since 1964, SCORE has helped more than 17 million entrepreneurs start, grow or successfully exit a business. SCORE's 10,000 volunteers provide free, expert mentoring, resources and education in all 50 U.S. states and territories. Visit SCORE at score.org.

Courtesy photo

Resource Guide features veterans-specific resources to offer insight on developing a business plan, securing funding, starting a business, buying an existing business, buying a

franchise, connecting with one of SCORE's volunteer mentors, and gaining a better understanding of business through webinars and workshops.

"Volunteering at SCORE is my way of showing appreciation to those who helped and guided me during my career while sharing my background and experience to help entrepreneurs succeed," said SCORE Mid-Atlantic Regional Vice President Ed Coleman. "While I enjoy working with all SCORE clients, as a U.S. Army veteran, I particularly enjoy working with veterans to translate their military experience into entrepreneurship. Helping clients realize their dreams is very gratifying and the essence of the SCORE mission."

SCORE Central Jersey Chapter Chair Nancy Verduin said mentors continually expand their knowledge base to better assist veterans on their entrepreneurial journey.

"Military transitioning from active duty have different needs than civilians in terms of starting a business," said Verduin. "It's wonderful to have veterans' resources at our volunteers' fingertips to aid in mentoring our service men and women."

Veterans account for about 10 percent of SCORE's client base. Veterans own 10 percent of small businesses and 14 percent of franchises. Since franchisors have a defined plan of what the business should entail, veterans represent the perfect franchisee given their ability to effectively execute plans as intended.

Nationally, veterans own nearly 2 million businesses, employing more than 5 million Americans, and generating more than \$1 trillion in annual income. Of those, 40 percent of veteran-owned businesses generate more than \$500,000 in annual revenue.

To learn more about SCORE, request a mentor or volunteer to be one, visit score.org.

Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions and/or recommendations expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA.

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SENIOR’S HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Township of Union

Our Union Seniors had a blast at their holiday luncheon, held on Friday, Dec. 12th, at the beautiful Galloping Hill Caterers. The hall was filled with cheer.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and made this annual event such a success! Happy Holidays!

Photos by Township of Union



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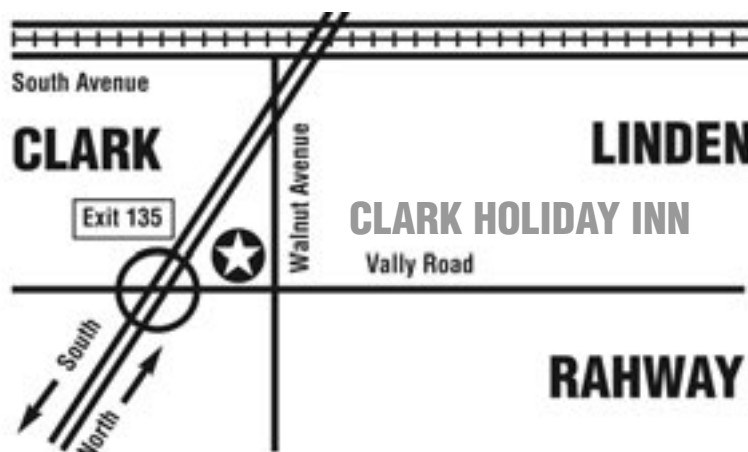
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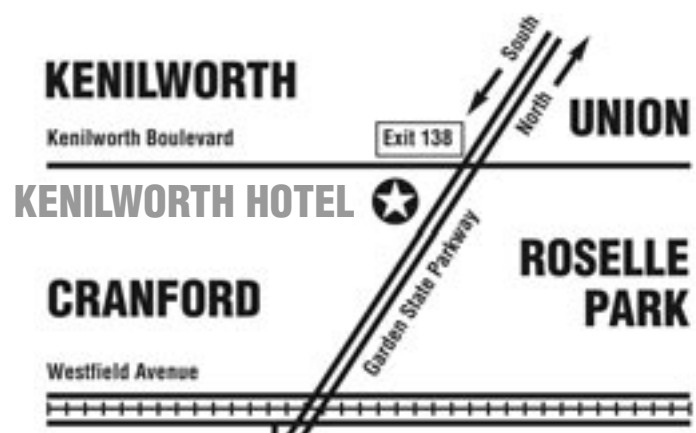
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MONDAY - FRIDAY
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TRY DRY JANUARY

The CDC defines drinking in moderation by limiting intake to 2 drinks or less in a day for men or 1 drink or less in a day for women. Heavier drinking and long-term drinking can increase physical and mental problems. The concept of Dry January, wishing to cut down on your alcohol intake, or simply wanting to begin the new year with a clean slate by choosing not to drink beer, wine, or spirits for one month, appeals to someone who may have noticed a pattern that they're drinking a little bit more than they should, especially during the holidays.

THERE ARE BENEFITS TO DRY JANUARY:

- You'll get a mood boost.
- You'll sleep more soundly.
- You might feel less bloated or even drop a few pounds.
- You'll save money.
- Your skin might look brighter.
- You'll have a stronger immune system.
- You'll feel better in the morning.
- You'll have a new relationship with alcohol.

A month may seem like a long time, but most people can be successful. Here are some tips for a successful Dry January:

Find a substitute non-alcoholic drink. For social situations, or when you crave a cocktail after a long day, reach for alcohol-free beverages like sparkling water, soda, or virgin beverages (non-alcoholic versions of alcoholic drinks.)

Non-alcoholic beer or wine also is an option, but some brands still contain up to 0.5% alcohol by volume, so check the label.

Avoid temptations. Keep alcohol out of your house. When you are invited to someone's home, bring your non-alcoholic drinks with you.

Create a support group. Let friends and family know about your intentions and encourage them to keep you accountable. Better yet, enlist someone to do the challenge with you.

Use the Try Dry app. This free app helps you track your drinking, set personal goals, and offers motivational information like calories and money saved from not drinking. It's aimed at cutting back on or cutting out alcohol, depending on your choices.

Don't give up. If you slip up, don't feel guilty. Just begin again the next day.

If you found Dry January to be a positive experience, why not consider extending it a little longer or gradually decreasing your alcohol consumption? Embracing these small changes could lead to lasting improvements in overall health and well-being.

Written by Amy Lewis, MPH, MCHES, Health Educator, Westfield Regional Health Department, on behalf of the Mayors Wellness Campaign.

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.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT

BROOKARTS.ORG

A square QR code located in the bottom right corner of the poster, which likely links to the website BrookArts.org.

JANUARY EVENTS AT THE UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY

Adult Services at (908)-851-5450 extension 3, or our Vauxhall Branch at (908)-851-5451, or check out our website at uplnj.org or visit us at the Main Library at 1980 Morris Avenue or at our Vauxhall Branch at 123 Hilton Ave.

STARTING OFF THE 250TH

We recommend everyone sign up for our newsletter to keep up with new programs, services, and updates about the library.

Registration is required for all events.

Voting Rights: A Film & Community Discussion (Vauxhall Branch Library)

Sat. January 3rd @ 1:00 pm

Over the last 20 years, states have erected barriers to the ballot box by imposing strict voter ID laws, cutting early voting times, and restricting registration. These efforts received a boost when the Supreme Court weakened the Voting Rights Act in 2013. Please join us as we watch a documentary that explores a cherished family story of Selma and the current state of voter suppression in America. A community discussion will follow after the film.

Mass Incarceration: A Film & Community Discussion (Vauxhall Branch Library)

Mon. January 5th @ 6:00 pm

Mass incarceration disproportionately affects Black Americans, who are incarcerated at significantly higher rates than other groups. This overrepresentation is seen in both adult and juvenile systems, contributing to systemic disparities in the criminal justice system. Please join us as we watch a short documentary on mass incarceration in Chicago and the energized movement created wanting reform. A community discussion will follow after the film.

Adult Paper Bead Jewelry (Vauxhall Branch Library)

Wed. Jan 7 @ 6:00 pm

Join us in person as Ms. Ondria Caffey shows attendees how to make your own beads using paper. Attendees will leave making jewelry that has class and style. Adults only.

Investment Advisors:

What to Know, What to Ask (Main Library)

Sat. Jan 10 @ 11:00 am

Placing your hard-earned money in the hands of a third-party investment advisor to achieve your lifetime financial goals is one of the most significant financial decisions you will ever make. Yet many people transfer that responsibility without obtaining information or asking questions needed to know. This presentation shows you how to navigate your way through this important process.

Saturday Trivia:

Jersey Edition (Vauxhall Branch Library)

Sat. Jan 10 @ 1:00 pm

Were you born in NJ and love the Garden State? Are you a fan of Bruce Springsteen or love not having to pump your own gas? Please join us for a night full of fun and prizes as you test your Jersey knowledge!

Adult Candle-Making Workshop (Main Library)

Mon. Jan 12 @ 5:30 pm

Check in at the Union Public Library and express your creative side at our candle-making workshop led by Salimah Scott, the talent behind Urban GLO. Limited slots available for this hands-on experience to craft your own personalized candle. Register early to reserve your place in this truly unique experience.

Vauxhall Negro League Baseball Club (Vauxhall Branch Library)

Mon. Jan 12 @ 6:00 pm

Are you a baseball fan and love history? Perhaps you are a fan of Satchel Paige or the Kansas City Monarchs? Come join us where our goal is to preserve the history of Negro League Baseball. Our meetings will consist of presentations, discussions, film viewings, book talks, and much more.

Estates Planning, Wills, & Living Wills (Main Library)

Tues. Jan 13 @ 6:00 pm

Meet with Shawna A. Brown and take a great look into plans for your estate and assets. Everyone can benefit from ensuring their assets and finances are taken care of, learn what you need to make an informed decision. There will be time at the end for a Q&A.

Adult Game Night (Vauxhall Branch Library)

Wed. Jan 14 @ 6:00 pm

Are you a game enthusiast? Do you want to meet new people? Come join us as we play classic games for a fun and relaxing night.

King: A Filmed Record...

Montgomery To Memphis Film Viewing (Vauxhall Branch Library)

Sat. Jan 17 @ 1:00 pm

The Human Relations Commission of Union Township in collaboration with the Vauxhall Branch Library will host a film viewing of the monumental documentary King: A Filmed Record...Montgomery To Memphis Film Viewing.

Black Masculinities in Comic Books: A Film & Community Discussion (Vauxhall Branch Library)

Wed. Jan 21 @ 6:00 pm

In recent years, comic books and graphic novels have surged in popularity. During those years, the representation of black masculinity has changed as well. Join us as we watch a documentary that covers this subject. A community discussion will follow.

Policies, Procedures & Programs of the IRS (Main Library)

Thur. Jan 22 @ 6:00 pm

The IRS is offering a free workshop detailing their wonderful programs, resources, and services. They will also be promoting their updated policies and procedures.

Union Public Library's Silent Book Club (Main Library)

Mon. Jan 26 @ 6:00 pm

J There's no assigned reading. All readers are welcome to join in, from fiction and non-fiction to ebooks and more! Bring your own book and join us as we read in quiet camaraderie.

Dorothy Foreman-Cotton: Film & Community Discussion (Vauxhall Branch Library)

Mon. Jan 26 @ 6:00 pm

Dorothy Foreman Cotton was a bold and highly effective civil rights leader. The only woman on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s executive staff, Dorothy was a consistently overlooked key player in the Civil Rights Movement. Please join us for a community discussion on her life.

Vision Boarding for the New Year (Main Library)

Thur. Jan 29 @ 6:00 pm

Kick off the year with a joyful, hands-on vision boarding workshop designed to spark clarity and creativity with art coach, Jenny. Using artful collage materials and a vintage typewriter for personal quotes or affirmations, you'll create a meaningful visual map for the year ahead. Leave feeling energized, empowered, and connected to your goals.

Old Glory: History of the American Flag (Vauxhall Branch Library)

Sat. Jan 31 @ 1:00 pm

With original photographs, vintage images, and patriotic music, Kevin Woyce explores the history of the American Flag - from its origin in the Revolution to the addition of our 50th star in 1960. This program is done in celebration of our country's 250th anniversary.

Meditation (Virtual on Zoom)

Mondays @ 6:30 pm

Join Bindu Bhatt for a virtual evening meditation session. No prior experience is necessary.

Chair Yoga (Main Library)

Tuesdays in January @ 9:15 am

Take a deep breath with friends and stretch! From beginners to professionals, join this popular class as a weekly series. Presented by the Gateway Family YMCA. Space is limited, please register to secure your chair!



(Above) Calling all high school seniors! Are you looking for some help with planning your next steps after graduation? UPL is here to help with Dr. Iyad Ghanim of Kean University! Whether you want assistance with college applications, help with writing resumes, or general career advice, Dr. Ghanim has got you covered. Drop in anytime from 4:30-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 1/13 at the Main Library



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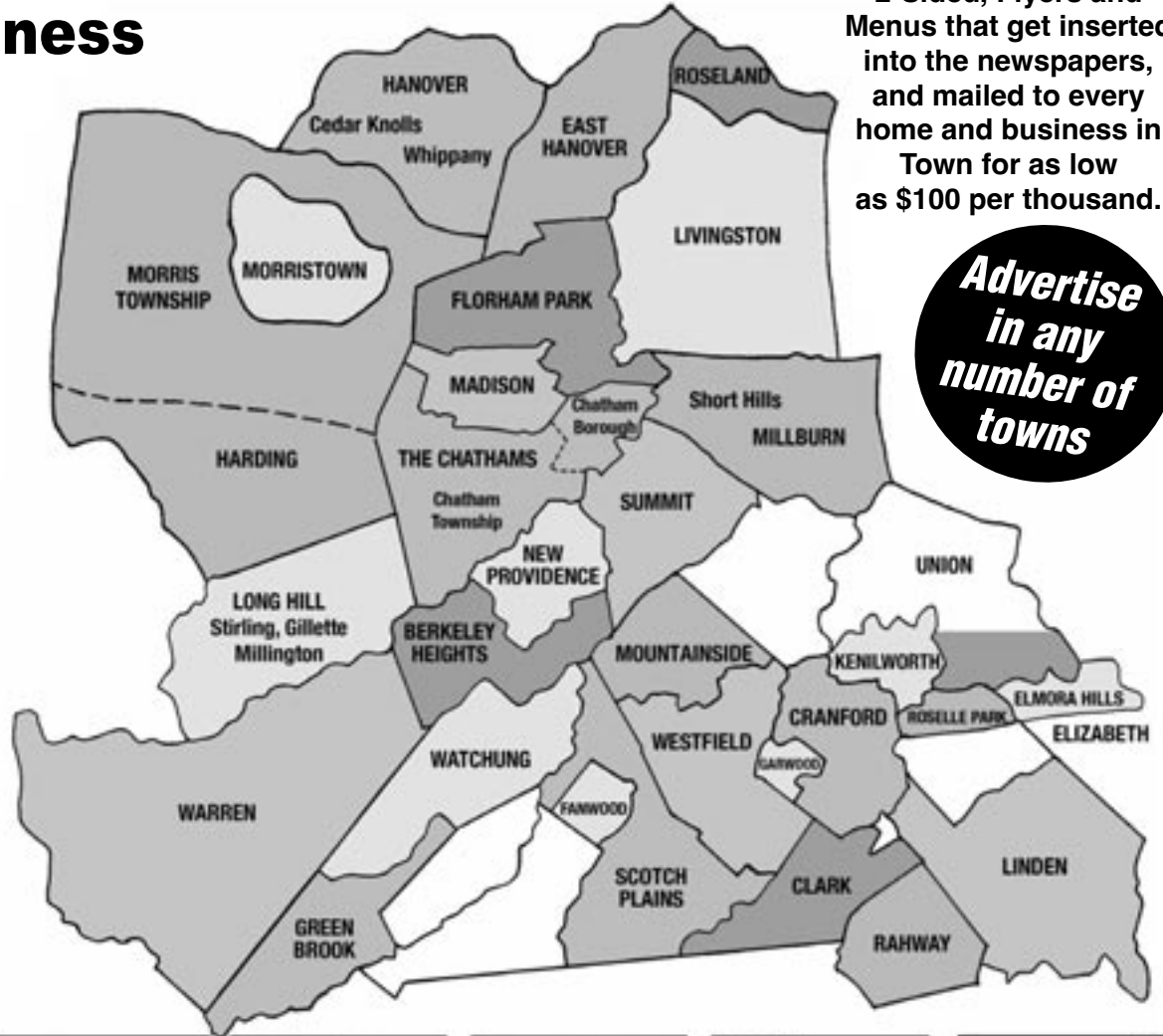
East Hanover View NJ

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Section of Elizabeth, NJ



Fanwood Post NJ

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Qty: 2,500
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Green Brook NJ Gazette

Qty: 3,300
Zip: 08812

HANOVER TOWNSHIP PRESS NJ
CEDAR KNOLLS WHIPPANY

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Livingston NJ Monthly

Qty: 12,100
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Qty: 3,500
Zips: 07933, 07946, 07980

MADISON MONTHLY NJ

Qty: 6,300
Zip: 07940

Short Hills MILLBURN MONTHLY NJ

Qty: 8,200
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MORRIS TOWNSHIP TIMES NJ

Qty: 13,500
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Scotch Plains NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

Qty: 9,600
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Summit NJ Times

Qty: 9,600
Zip: 07901

Spirit of UNION NJ

Qty: 7,800
Zip: 07083 (partial)

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Zip: 07069

Westfield MONTHLY NJ

Qty: 12,000
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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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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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Minimum cost is \$850. INCLUDES FOLDING

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