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NJ

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ISSUE 158 • JANUARY 2026

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SENIORS WELCOME IN THE HOLIDAYS

The Watchung Seniors Club held their annual Christmas/Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at Firemen's Exempt Hall in Watchung. The event was free to members, and guests/non club members paid a minimal fee

of \$15 per person. The party included a fabulous catered lunch featuring various Italian specialties, group activities, and prizes. For more information about the Club, and how to become a member contact Mary Osborne at 908-625-8959.



Ashley's November Watchung Market Update



CHERIE
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TEAM

The Cherie Berger Team
Ashley Berger Freitas M: 908.432.9818
cheriebergerteam@compass.com
O: 732.454.3007



\$1,103,900
Average Sales Price

▲ Increased from last month



5 # of sales

No change from last month



25 Average Days
on Market

▲ Increased from last month



8 # of houses on
the market

▼ Decreased from last month



COMPASS

Watchung Post

Renna Media, LLC, Publishers
202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

Watchung Post is published by Renna Media. 2,700 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Watchung, NJ. Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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CHEER TEAM WINS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP



(above) Warren Hills Regional High School Competition Cheer Team recently won the Somerset County Championship for their Game Day Routine.

Photo by WHRHS

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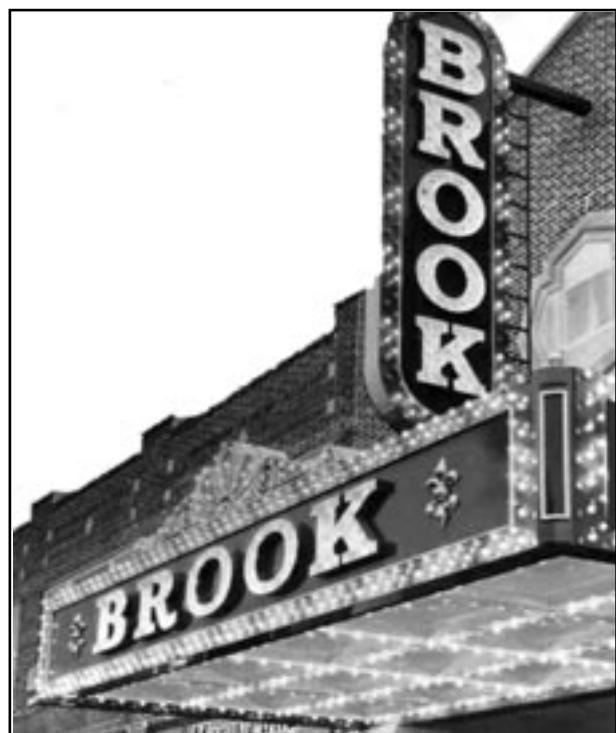
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BUDDY BASKETBALL REGISTRATION OPEN

The Warren Youth Basketball Association is excited to announce the 11th year of Buddy Ball Basketball. Buddy Ball is a free sports program for children who may have a disability or a neurodivergent condition that makes it difficult to participate in a traditional basketball program. Clinics offer 60-minute sessions focused on basketball fundamentals and social interaction. Buddy Ball is open to children from kindergarten through 12th grade, from Warren and any surrounding towns that do not already have a program.

It will take place at Mt. Horeb School in Warren on Fridays, from 6-7 p.m., January 9 to February 27, 2026. Register at: warrenyouthbasketball.leagueapps.com/events

The program will be coached by WYBA volunteer Terry MacConnell. Each player will be paired with a “buddy” who will help them throughout every session. Volunteer buddies currently in 8th grade through high school are welcome to join.

Buddies should email Terry MacConnell at tmacc2713@gmail.com and register at: warrenyouthbasketball.leagueapps.com/events

WOMAN’S LITERARY CLUB OF BOUND BROOK

Submitted by Sherry Gilroy

The next meeting for The Woman’s Literary Club of Bound Brook will be on January 5, 2026 at 1p.m. The address is Rennell Hall, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 214 Church St, Bound Brook. Members are reminded to bring their \$45 membership dues. Refreshments will be served.

Our guest speaker will be from the National Alliance on Mental Illness. The program will be “In Our Own Voice: Living with Mental Illness.”

We welcome potential members from the Bound Brook area to be our guests.

For membership information, email MFicszko@optonline.net and reference WLCBB on the subject line.

BROOK ARTS CENTER ANNOUNCES ITS 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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CALLED TO SERVE: REV. RYAN IRMER

Wilson Memorial Church

The members of Wilson Memorial Church, located in Watchung, are honored and excited to welcome their new Senior Pastor, Rev. Ryan Irmer.

After Pastor Michael Droege stepped away to pursue post-doctoral studies at Yale University, Wilson Church faced the challenge of finding a new leader to guide its congregation. For the first time in 97 years - since the hiring of Benjamin Marshall in 1927 - there was no assistant pastor waiting in the wings.

Finding someone who could embody the heart and mission of this unique, community-centered church was no small task. Wilson has long been known as a place where everyone is welcome, regardless of background or denomination. The congregation sought not only a skilled preacher but also a compassionate leader who would minister to both the congregation and the greater community.

As the story goes, a simple mix-up in phone messages led Rev. Irmer to apply for the interim pastor position. Looking back, some call it fate, others providence, and many believe it was divine guidance. Whatever the reason, one thing became clear - Rev. Irmer was meant to be at Wilson. After serving nearly a year as Interim Pastor, the congregation joyfully and unanimously voted to call him as their permanent Senior Pastor.

Before entering full-time ministry, Rev. Irmer spent more than a decade as a basketball coach, recruiter, and physical education teacher,

working with high schools, colleges, and universities. Feeling called in a new and different direction, he and his wife, Amelia, along with their daughter, Ali, moved to New Jersey, where he attended Princeton Theological Seminary. There, he earned both a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Missional Theology.

His pastoral journey has since included service in Northern Ireland as an associate pastor, followed by six years as pastor of Slackwood Presbyterian Church and three years at Long Valley Presbyterian Church.

Today, Wilson Memorial Church continues to thrive as a vibrant, interdenominational, and community-focused congregation dedicated to being "a light on the hill" - reflecting God's love and sharing the message of Christ with all.

Incorporated in 1914, Mary E. Wilson Memorial Union Church is committed to welcoming all people into a life of faith, service, and community. Located in the heart of Watchung, the church seeks to embody Christ's love through worship, outreach, and compassionate presence in the community.

The Wilson faith community warmly invites everyone to worship. Sunday morning services are held at 10:00 a.m., both in-person and online at www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org.

For more information - or simply a listening ear - please contact us at (908) 755-5020. The church office is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



(above) Rev. Irmer with his his wife, Amelia, and daughter, Ali.

Courtesy Photo

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BENJAMIN WEBB EARNS EAGLE SCOUT RANK

*Submitted by Laura Cheshire,
Green Brook BST 129*

Benjamin Webb achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on November 12, 2025, from Green Brook Boy Scout Troop 129. Ben's start in Cub Scouts began in 1st grade and continued into his Senior Year at Watchung Hills Regional High School. Ben says, "Scouts has positively shaped my character and the way that I view the world. I can't help but ponder how Scouting has helped me become the version of myself that I am today."

Ben has shown his amazing leadership as a Den Chief all while pursuing other school activities. Den Chief is an important role in scouting, older Boy Scouts work with younger Cub Scouts to "prepare the boys to feel prepared for the journey ahead of them, and to know that even if they were anxious, they would always be welcome in Scouting." In continuing with this effort, once this group of boys crossed over into the Troop, Ben then became their Troop Guide, another leadership position that "provides consistency and support during their transition." It was extra rewarding for Ben while working on his Eagle Scout project that the boys he mentored for so many years returned their support by helping him. Ben stated, "The boys' presence at my project demonstrated to me that my leadership had an effect on them, which made me feel emotionally rewarded for my work."

The Eagle Scout project served as Ben's largest test of leadership; he was able to "coordinate a large group of Scouts and adult volunteers simultaneously" while designing a project that consisted of three raised planter boxes made of



(above) Benjamin Webb, Green Brook Boy Scout Troop 129's latest Eagle Scout.

Courtesy Photos

cedar wood filled with plants. All Saints Episcopal Church in Millington, NJ requested this project to solve the problem of drivers using a walkway that was designed for pedestrians. The walkway in front of the church was becoming dangerous; this project now blocks the walkway to vehicles in addition to beautifying the front of the church.

Ben's interests include the High School

Marching Band, Jazz Band, Academic Team, Italian Honor Society and National Honor Society. Ben begins to prepare for college this fall and will study business. While Ben balanced his scouting, academic and extracurricular activities he also earned some scouting awards Den Chief Service Award and National Outdoor Achievement Award. He held the following positions in the Troop: Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Den Chief and Bugler.

Learning Loyalty from the Scout Law, Ben states, "I know that loyalty will continue to guide the way I make decisions. I aspire to be steadfast regardless of the circumstances, allowing others to rely on me for guidance and support. No matter where life takes me, I will find satisfaction dedicating myself to others."

For more information about Green Brook Boy Scout Troop 129 visit their Facebook page: GBTroop129



(above) Ben's Eagle Scout Project benefited All Saints Episcopal Church in Millington, NJ.



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visit SCLSNJ.org or connect with SCLSNJ
on Facebook, Instagram, X or YouTube.

CHILDREN

Baby/Toddler Storytime

Birth to 3 years (with caregiver)

January 5, 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Introduce your child to the beginnings of storytime in this interactive program featuring rhymes, movement, songs, and stories.

Music with Miss Donna

Birth to 5 years (with caregiver)

January 26, 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Take time to bond with your children while making music in this interactive session. Enjoy music, fingerplays, and playing instruments.

Hosted at Wilson Memorial Church.

Bingo with Miss June - Ages 4 and up

January 21, 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Share your love of Bingo with other players as you compete to win prizes.

Read to a Therapy Dog - Grade K - 4

January 20, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Practice your reading skills by reading a story to a certified therapy dog. Registration is required.

Registration begins December 30.

LEGO® Fun - Grades K - 5

January 14, 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

STEAM: Cup Phone and Kazoo

January 27, 4:30 - 5:15 p.m.

Make a cup phone and kazoo to discover the science behind sound.

Teen Volunteer Afternoon:

Letters to Community Helpers - Grades 6 - 12

January 22, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Help the library out for an hour. Attendees will earn one hour of service time.

Families with Children

Family Painting Afternoon: Snowman

January 6, 4:30pm - 5:30 p.m.

Family Storytime: Yoga

January 12, 10:30- 11:00 a.m.

Discover songs, stories, and yoga poses in this active storytime.

ADULTS

Rock Cactus

January 8 and 10, 10:30 a.m. - noon

Make a cactus plant using rocks. Please sign up for only one session.

Adult Book Discussion - Piglet by Lottie Hazell

January 8, 6:30 - 7:45 p.m.

Hosted at Wilson Memorial Church

Pottery Hand-Build Workshop

Saturday January 24, 10:30 a.m. - noon

Join us for a hands-on creative session where you'll design and build your own unique ceramic piece! Using simple hand-building techniques, you'll shape your project from start to finish. Registration begins December 13.

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



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

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, or call (908) 725-5430.

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?
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WARRENBROOK SENIOR CENTER JANUARY EVENTS

500 Warrenville Road. All the programs are FREE for the registered members. Call (908) 753-9440 for more information.

Computer Lab – Available daily.

Participants are invited to use computers at their leisure.

Games/Cards (Scrabble, Uno, Canasta, Mexican Train, Rummikub, etc.) – Available daily.

If you have a favorite game that is not listed that you would like to play and/or if you are interested in starting a club featuring your favorite game, please let us know.

Jigsaw Puzzles – Available daily

Strike up a conversation, make new friends and enjoy assembling puzzles together. We have a large variety of puzzles for participants to choose from.

Watercolor Paint Class

Mondays & Wednesdays, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

This is a great opportunity for an experienced artist to meet new people while water coloring.

All supplies included.

1 on 1 Computers with Sal

Mondays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Are you intimidated by computers? Do you know how to email and/or play solitaire on the computer? Do you know how to do a web search? By the end of an 8-week, one-on-one class, you will understand what your grandkids have been trying to explain to you. Pre-registration is required.

Chair Yoga with Kartika

Mondays, 10 a.m.

This class is open to all levels of skill. Hatha yoga poses can be practiced while either sitting or standing. Hatha yoga will help increase bone density, improve strength, flexibility, and balance while you are immersed in a relaxing class. Expect lots of gentle stretching to bring movement to joints and muscles. This class is perfect for relieving stress and helping gain an overall sense of well-being.

Mahjong for Intermediate Players

Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

If you are an intermediate mahjong player and would like to play this game of skill, strategy, and calculation, then join us on Tuesday mornings.

Tai Chi with Roger Hsu

Tuesdays & Fridays, 10 a.m.

Tai Chi participants will focus on shifting body weight through a series of light, controlled movements that flow rhythmically into one long gesture. Studies have shown that some participants have experienced a reduction in pain, fatigue, and stiffness and have gained a greater sense of well-being. Tai Chi can help reduce falls, especially for those with balance problems. This program can be practiced while either standing or sitting. This class is open to Warrenbrook Senior Center clients only.

Bridge Group with Ronnie

Tuesdays, 1 – 4 p.m.

Bridge is a mentally challenging card game that offers intellectual and social stimulation. Playing bridge regularly stimulates your brain and helps keep your memory active and your brain alert. Join Ronnie and her group as they play bridge on a weekly basis. Welcome new members and beginners (lessons available).

Stretch & Strength

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

with Mikaela Kane from Rutgers Co-operative Extension. Mikaela will be leading an 8-week exercise class that involves stretch & strength. Stretching keeps the muscles flexible, strong, and healthy, and we need that flexibility to maintain a range of motion in the joints. The exercise can be done with or without weight.

The hand weight of 2-5 pounds is recommended

Craft Activities

4th Monday, 1 – 4 p.m.

We all work on doing craft work for Community Service projects throughout the year. This quarter, we are creating cards for our Home Delivered Meal clients. All supplies will be provided.

Line Dancing with Linda Hyland

Thursdays, 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

You don't need a partner; and dancing is an easy way to stay healthy, both mentally and physically. It's suitable for participants with limited mobility and has been shown to increase cardiovascular and muscular strength and improve coordination and balance as you work through different moves.

Afternoon Yoga with Wai-Ling Poon

Thursdays, 12:45 p.m.

Take a break, relax, and recharge with our Gentle Afternoon Yoga session. This class uses seated and standing poses (with the support of a chair) to improve flexibility, balance, and circulation, all in a safe environment.

Bridge

Fridays, 1 – 4 p.m.

Bridge is a mentally challenging card game that offers intellectual and social stimulation. Playing bridge regularly stimulates your brain and helps keep your memory active and your brain alert.

Armchair Travels to Iceland

January 2, 11 a.m.

This one-hour special begins in Reykjavik. Then, after fording rivers in a desolate valley and spotting puffins on volcano-shaped islands, we drive the 800-mile Ring Road — connecting glaciers, fjords, geothermal hotspots, sod-roofed settlements.

The Somerset County Traveling Library.

January 5, 1 p.m.

Join the Somerset County Library staff to sign up for a library card, get help troubleshooting technology, check out a book, or just share a favorite book you are currently reading.

Wheel of Fortune

January 6, 11 a.m.

Spin the colorful wheel and watch the anticipation build as participants try to match clues and solve word puzzles. Whether you're a seasoned player or a first timer, this classic game offers plenty of laughter, friendly competition, and a chance to test your memory and word skills. Perfect for all levels of ability, Wheel of Fortune brings people together in a lively, interactive way, offering a wonderful mix of entertainment and socializing. Don't miss out on the fun

Bingo

January 7, 11 a.m.

with Warrenbrook Volunteer, Bob Mazet. It promotes socialization, strengthens hand-eye coordination, and improves listening and short-term memory skills.

Remembering Martin Luther King Jr.:

January 8, 11 a.m.

Legacy of Courage and Inspiration (Video).

Martin Luther King Jr. stands as an iconic figure in history, dedicating his life to the noble cause of advocating for equality in rights and abolishing segregation and discrimination against Black Americans in the United States.

Drum Circle with Anil Sachadev

January 12, 1 p.m.

This is a holistic experience that leaves participants feeling a sense of joy! .

Snowflake Craft

January 13, 11 a.m.

Celebrate the beauty of winter with a fun and festive snowflake craft! This relaxing, hands-on activity is perfect for all skill levels.

Monthly Book Club.

(Hybrid) January 13, 1:30 PM

Book Club members to discuss the book of the month and select the next book to read. New members are always welcome!

Studio 60+

January 14 & 28, 1 p.m.

Warrenbrook seniors will meet to plan the events they are interested in. They will also practice for their quarterly musical entertainments & drama.

Breathing Techniques for Mental Wellness

January 15, 11 a.m.

Dr. Srinivas will be teaching some practices that can be used to distract the mind and induce calm during an anxiety episode.

Music and Memories

January 16, 11 a.m.

with Sal Di Bianca. Get ready to sing, dance, and celebrate alongside the wonderful seniors of Warrenbrook. Come prepared to move, groove, and make joyful memories together!

Wordle

January 20, 11 a.m.

with Warrenbrook Staff. Wordle is a word-based brain game where participants have six chances to guess a five-letter word.

Senior Medicare Patrol

January 21, 11 a.m.

with Joel Schneider from Jewish Family Services of Middlesex County. Join Joel as he provides education regarding strategies and techniques regarding how to protect our personal information.

Bingo

January 22, 10:30 a.m.

with Bob Mazet. It promotes socialization, strengthens hand-eye coordination, and improves listening and memory skills.

Boggle

January 27, 11 a.m.

This is a challenging game that is played using a grid of letters, in which attendees search for words that can be constructed from letters of sequentially adjacent letters.

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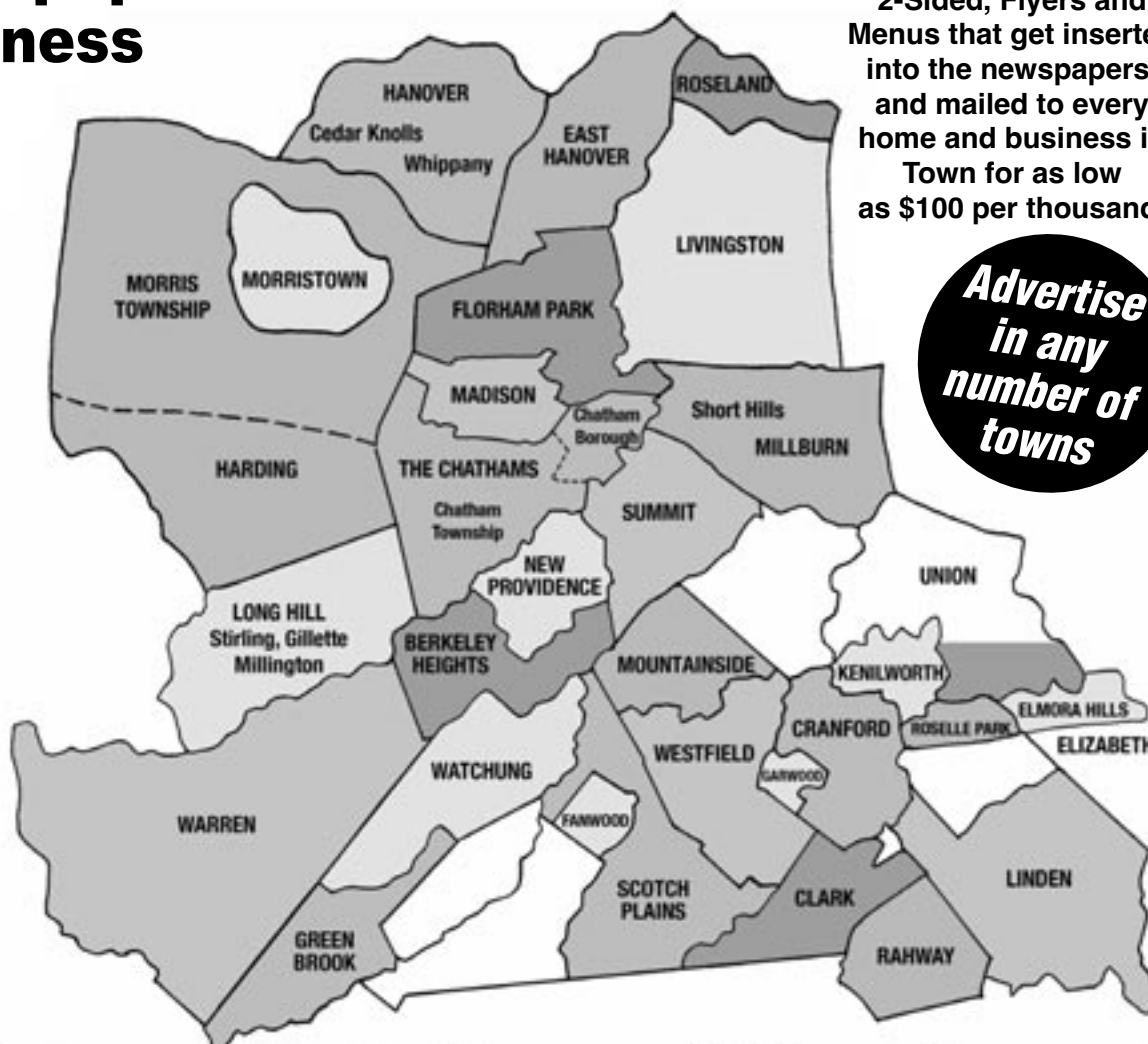
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4 Units	3.25"x8" or 6.5"x4"	240	560	900	1000	1300	1600	1700	1800	1900	2000	2100
6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF PAGE	6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
12 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
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ROUND TOP SWIM & TENNIS CLUB CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

For 60 years, Round Top Swim & Tennis Club has quietly stood as one of Warren's most valuable community treasures—a rare, privately preserved open space dedicated not to profit, but to people.

Founded in 1965, Round Top was created with a simple and enduring purpose: to give families a place to gather, children a place to grow, and neighbors a place to connect through shared outdoor experience. Six decades later, that original mission remains unmistakably alive.

Set on 14 wooded acres in the heart of Warren, Round Top offers something increasingly difficult to find—a true retreat. Members spend their summers swimming, playing tennis and pickleball, enjoying volleyball and bocce, and spreading out across

expansive grass fields where children play freely and families unwind. The Club's summer camp and competitive swim team continue to shape confidence, character, and lifelong friendships for generations of children.

Round Top is not limited to summer alone. Throughout the year, the property remains a sanctuary for walking, fresh air, quiet reflection, winter cross-country skiing, and a deep connection to nature - offering value well beyond a traditional pool season.

What truly distinguishes Round Top, however, is not its amenities or acreage. It is the continuity. Generations of families have learned to swim here. Former campers return as parents. Grandparents watch their grandchildren enjoy the same poolside summers they once did. This kind of multigenerational continuity is rare—

and increasingly irreplaceable.

Round Top remains member-owned and community-governed, stewarded by the families who use and care for it. This structure has preserved not only the land, but the culture: welcoming, grounded, and deeply rooted in Warren's identity.

As Round Top Swim & Tennis Club celebrates 60 years, we are opening a limited opportunity for new members to join this community. Membership availability is intentionally finite, and interest continues to grow each year. Families who value open space, tradition, and meaningful connection are encouraged to explore membership now.

Visit roundtopswim.com to learn more and apply while availability remains.

Join Round Top - and help carry this legacy forward into the next generation.

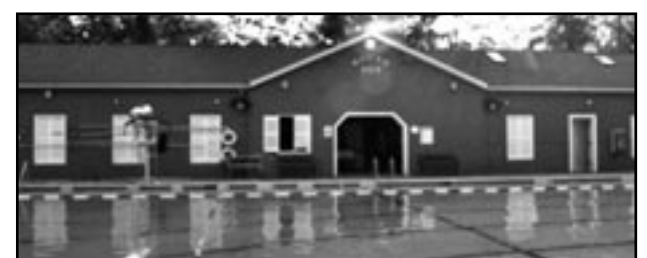


(above) The Gators - Round Top Swim Team

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(above) Round Top Features adult and children pools, tennis and pickleball courts, playgrounds, club house, hiking trails and more

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(above) Summer Camps

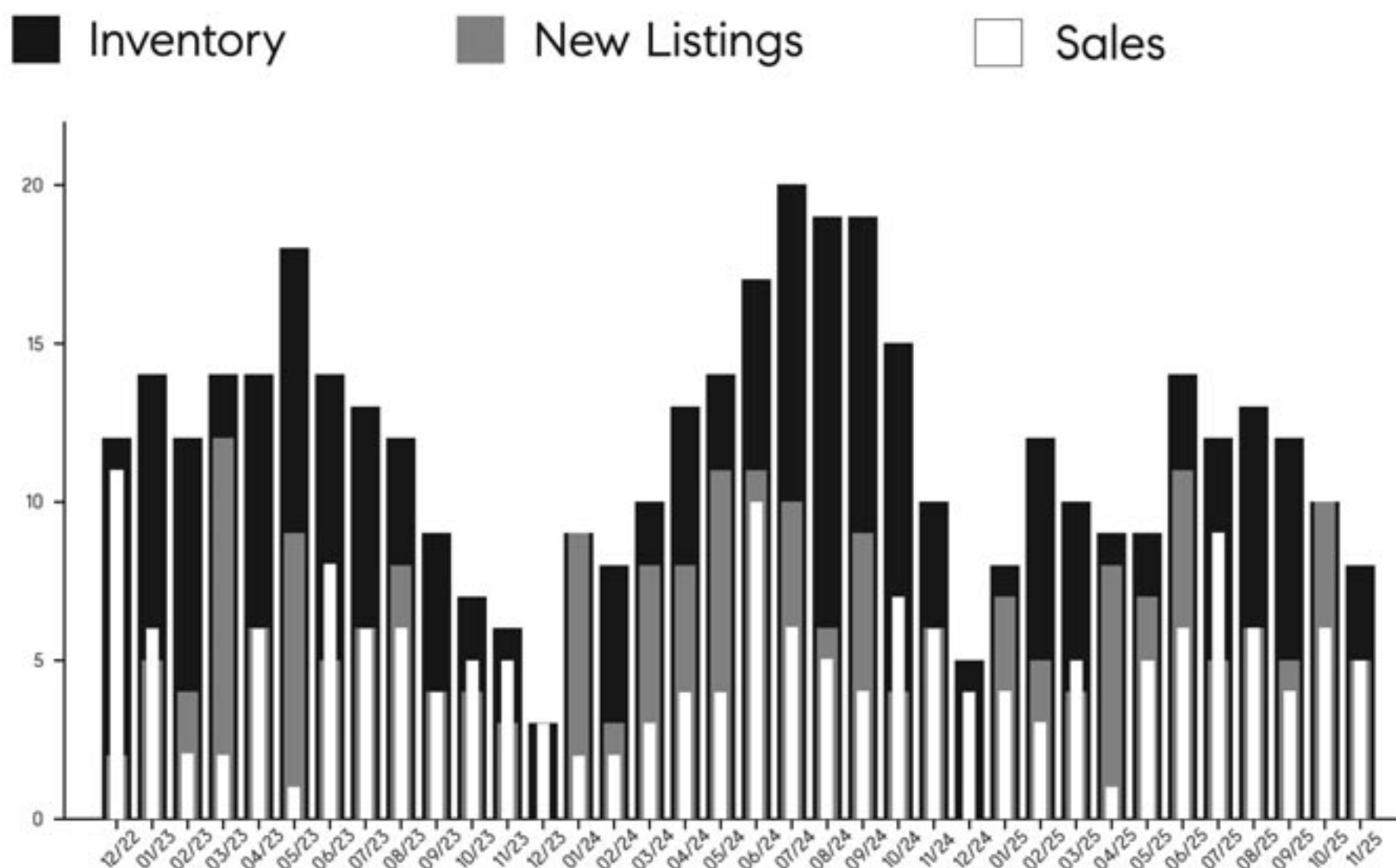
The Most Successful Listing Strategy Starts With The Knowledge of Your Local Market.



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Watchung November 2025: Inventory, New Listings & Sales

This view of the market combines monthly inventory of properties for sale along with new listings and sales. The graph shows the basic annual seasonality of the market as well as the relationship between these items. The number of new listings in November 2025 was 5, a change of -50% from 10 last month and -17% from 6 in November 2024.



Contact the Cherie Berger Team for local experience you can count on!



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