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VOICES OF LIBERTY BRINGS BILL OF RIGHTS TO LIFE

Daniel Cannon, Millburn 250 Committee

On December 17, the Bauer Center was filled with civic pride, historical reflection, and youthful energy as Millburn celebrated Bill of Rights Day through Voices of Liberty, a signature program of the Millburn 250 initiative. The evening was masterfully guided by a trio of youth emcees, Jojo Brazell, Jiana Daiya, and Minna Kelly, whose poise, clarity, and enthusiasm set the tone for a program that was both meaningful and memorable.

In her opening remarks, emcee Jojo Brazell captured the spirit of the evening, telling the audience, "Tonight, we gather to honor the freedoms that define us as Americans, freedoms carefully written more than two centuries ago and still shaping our lives today."

The program opened with a formal flag ceremony by Scouting America Troop 19 of St. Rose of Lima, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Mishca Williams-Owolabi. The National Anthem was performed by Justin Lambert, whose musicianship added a powerful and respectful opening to the evening. Lambert later returned to conclude the program with a stirring rendition of God Bless America, providing a fitting close to the celebration.

At the heart of Voices of Liberty was a community reading of the Bill of Rights, with each amendment read aloud by volunteers representing a wide range of ages, experiences, and organizations, reinforcing that these freedoms belong to everyone.

The readers, in order, were Vincent Nascone, Ava Shah, Bob Gula, Mishca Williams-Owolabi, Ananya Mandrekar, Shaurya Tanna, Hanna Lee, Minna Kelly, Genevieve Brazell, Penelope Brazell, Sara Abraham-Winkler, and Alisha Anthony. Together, they represented Millburn High School, Millburn Middle School, Scouts BSA Troop 19, the Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society, the Knights of Columbus (St. Rose of Lima), and the Forgotten Victory Trail, creating a powerful cross section of the Millburn community.

Following the readings, emcee Minna Kelly transitioned the program to its interactive portion, noting, "It is clear that the Bill of Rights belongs to everyone."

The program then shifted from reflection to participation with the crowd favorite Know Your Rights game, co-hosted by sisters Penelope and Genevieve Brazell. The interactive

(continued on page 2)

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(above) Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds gather following Millburn's Voices of Liberty program, representing Millburn High School, Millburn Middle School, Scouts BSA Troop 19 (St. Rose of Lima), the Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society, the Knights of Columbus (St. Rose of Lima), the Forgotten Victory Trail, and the Sons of American Legion Squadron 140, Millburn—a powerful reminder that the Bill of Rights is for everyone.

Photo by Millburn 250

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VOICES OF LIBERTY (continued from page 1)

game invited audience members to test their knowledge of constitutional freedoms. Thirteen contestants, symbolizing the original thirteen states, were randomly selected to compete, holding amendment cards labeled I through X as they answered progressively challenging questions on free speech, due process, criminal protections, and limits on government power.

As the rounds advanced, the field narrowed and excitement built among both contestants and spectators. In the final moments, Mohan Mandrekar emerged as the overall winner, earning the title of Millburn 250 Know Your Rights Champion and receiving a \$25 Häagen-Dazs gift card. All contestants were recognized with additional prizes in appreciation of their enthusiasm and civic spirit.

Reflecting on the impact of the game and the evening as a whole, youth volunteer Penelope Brazell shared, “It really shows how the Bill of Rights isn’t just a piece of paper, it’s a document that protects our rights and brings us all together.”

As the program drew to a close, emcee Jiana Daiya reflected on the experience and its meaning, saying, “Being an emcee tonight was a great experience, very patriotic, and it makes me feel extremely proud of the United States to see how far we’ve come.”

In her closing remarks, Millburn 250 Committee member Dorothy Kelly, known for her deep love of history, brought both humor and



(above) Emcees Minna Kelly, Jojo Brazell, and Jiana Daiya await the kickoff of Millburn 250’s Voices of Liberty program celebrating Bill of Rights Day.

Photo by Millburn 250

insight to the evening. She jokingly told audience members who struggled during the Know Your Rights game that they might want to head back to eighth grade to brush up on the Bill of Rights, drawing laughter from the crowd. She then went on to share the historical significance of the moment, noting, “New Jersey was the very first state to ratify the Bill of Rights, and that connection makes tonight especially meaningful. As we approach America’s 250th anniversary, it’s important that we continue learning about our shared history and passing these ideals of liberty and independence on to the next generation.”



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PEGASUS: THE ORCHESTRA BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THERAYOUTH

At Dorothy Young Center for the Arts, Drew University, Madison, NJ • Saturday, March 21, 2026 • 4:00 PM

Pegasus: The Orchestra will perform at Drew University on Saturday, March 21 at 4:00 PM for the TheraYouth Foundation’s Third Annual Concert fundraiser. Held at the Dorothy Young Center for the Arts, the concert will unite world-class professional musicians with local student performers to raise critical funds for TheraYouth’s mission to provide needed physical, occupational, and speech therapy services to disadvantaged children who cannot otherwise access care.

Pegasus: The Orchestra pairs artistic excellence with social impact. Pianist, conductor and composer Karén Hakobyan founded the group in 2017 as a nonprofit dedicated to supporting exceptional musical talent, and to bringing world-class performances to underserved communities. True to its namesake, the ensemble empowers its musicians to soar artistically. Pegasus functions as a collective of artist leaders, resulting in performances that run the range of vibrant, driven orchestral performances alternating with intimate and chamber-like expression. The New York Concert Review calls Pegasus “a truly first-rate ensemble” and a “can’t miss” group, urging audiences to “get your tickets right away before they sell out.”

As a composer-arranger, Director Hakobyan frequently crafts orchestral works to showcase the unique musicality of the ensemble’s artists, as in this concert which Hakobyan specifically

wrote for this performance. The concert opens with the urgency of Haydn’s Symphony No. 59 (“Fire”), followed by the delicate, Three Armenian Miniatures by Komitas. Acclaimed Grammy-nominated cellist Sergey Antonov follows with Saint-Saëns’ Cello Concerto No. 1, where the audience can truly appreciate his masterful playing in the intimate chamber orchestra setting. Pegasus’s program continues with the soulful elegance of Rachmaninoff’s Vocalise before concluding with Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue, capturing the spirit of American jazz in an exuberant finale.

The Chatham High School Chamber Choir, directed by Kenneth Bryson, will perform the Interlude. This ensemble has performed at venues including the White House, the National Anthem at Citi Field to open a Mets game, the Empire State Building, and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and appreciated for their

musical excellence. The proceeds from this concert will support the TheraYouth Foundation, whose mission is to ensure that children are never denied critical physical, occupational, or speech therapy simply because their families cannot afford it. TheraYouth serves disadvantaged youth with treatable conditions, helping them gain strength, communication, and independence. Funded entirely through donations and fundraisers, every dollar raised supports life-changing therapy sessions for children who might otherwise go without the care they need to thrive. “Every child deserves the chance to reach their full potential,” said TheraYouth founder, Dr. Irina Marcoff, DPT. “This concert not only raises vital funds but brings the community together around the belief that early, high-quality therapy can change the course of a child’s life.”



TheraYouth Foundation

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MANOLLASINI IS BUILDING CULTURAL BRIDGES THROUGH MUSIC & DANCE

Manollasini Inc., a new 501(c)(3) based in Millburn–Short Hills, is enriching the local arts landscape by providing performance platforms for Indian classical music, dance, and community-centered cultural presentations. Founded by vocalist and arts advocate Manasa Khandrika, the nonprofit collaborates with area music and dance schools to create meaningful

stage opportunities for youth, artists, and families.

In December, Manollasini presented BTKWOODS – Holiday Bonanza at The Racquets Club of Short Hills, attracting 91 guests for a family-friendly celebration of Indian cinema music. Performances included Manasa Live (Tollywood songs), Punjabi & Sufi songs by the

Rhythm Tolee band, and a high-energy finale by the Hindi contemporary band Moksha.

The event was supported by parent volunteers, Friends and Patrons of Manollasini, and local sponsors.

More information about our nonprofit and activities can be found on our website: www.manollasini.org



(above, l-r) Manasa Khandrika, Uday Thakur, Nitin Mahadev, Rekha Laghate, Sai Jambunathan, Radhika Shrinivas, Sangita Viswanathan, Ramya Chellappa-Ives, Sindhura Reddy, Radhika Rangarajan, Visalakshi Vaidyanathan, Maduri Asokan, Ramya Shankar, Prabha Natarajan, Anu Mahadev, Swetha Balasubramanian.

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Opera at Florham is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Opera at Florham invites audiences to celebrate Valentine’s Day weekend with a concert of love on stage: Valentine Serenade, a special Sunday afternoon concert on February 15, 2026 at 2:00 pm at Lenfell Hall, The Mansion, Fairleigh Dickinson University (285 Madison Ave, Madison, NJ 07940).

Featuring beloved Opera at Florham favorites Sarah Barrera, Soprano, and Pedro Barrera, Tenor, this program showcases a married couple united on and off the stage, whose shared artistry brings rare intimacy and authenticity to every performance. The concert unfolds as a cinematic emotional journey - exploring love, longing, joy, and farewell through music that resonates deeply with the heart.

In past performances, the Barreras have captivated audiences with repertoire ranging from Giuseppe Verdi, Giacomo Puccini, and Charles Gounod to Ennio Morricone, Stephen Sondheim, and other modern favorites, seamlessly bridging Opera, theater, and film in performances that are both emotionally rich and theatrically compelling.

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A Valentine Serenade is presented by Opera at Florham as part of its ongoing commitment to offering inspired, intimate performances in one of New Jersey’s most beautiful historic venues. Reserve your seat online and early to enjoy this afternoon of love and passion, as limited tickets will be available at the door.

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Programs are free and open to all residents. Register at millburnlibrary.org/events. For virtual programs, registrants will receive a Zoom link.

ADULTS PROGRAMS

The Same Principle Lives in US with the Museum of the American Revolution

Thursday February 5, 7-8pm, Virtual

American Revolutionaries struggled with a key question: would the words of the Declaration of Independence, that "all men are created equal," apply to all people? From the outbreak of the Revolution, people of African descent asked and answered this question through their words and actions.

Vinyl Revival with Lance Jacobs

Thursday February 26, 7-8pm, Auditorium

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CHILDREN & FAMILIES PROGRAMS

Shrek the Musical Kids

Friday February 6, 4-5pm, Auditorium

Join us for Shrek the Musical KIDS, a 45-minute show performed by Paper Mill's Children's Theater on Tour students. Suitable for grades K-5. Registration required.

Sensory Storytime

Saturday February 14, 10-10:30am, Auditorium

The storytime will have interactive stories, songs, and activities that support children with sensory processing needs. For children ages 4-8 and their grown-ups. Registration is required.

TEENS & TWEENS PROGRAMS

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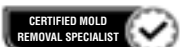
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2025 NATIONAL K-12 GRADE CHESS TEAM CHAMPS - QIAN, ZHU, ZHANG

Millburn Township Public Schools

Huge congratulations to Millburn High School 9th graders Bobby Qian, Ryan Zhu, and David Zhang, who captured the 2025 National K-12 Grade Chess Team Championship held in Spokane, Washington in December.

Competing against top players from 42 states, the team battled through seven intense rounds to

bring home the National 9th Grade Team Championship trophy for MHS. Even more impressive:, Bobby placed 3rd, David 8th, and Ryan 10th individually among all ninth-grade players nationwide!

This powerhouse trio has now won national team titles in grades 5–9 and was crowned National Middle School Chess Champion in 2023. A truly remarkable run of excellence and dedication! Way to go, Millers!

CONGRATS FROM CHESS IN MILLBURN TO STUDENT MAX



Photo by Millburn Township Public

We are delighted to celebrate Max Liu’s outstanding performance at the 2025 National K-12 Grades Championship in Spokane, Washington. Max attends Deerfield Elementary School in Millburn Short Hills. Competing in the 4th Grade Championship from December 12–14, Max navigated a highly competitive field of 147 participants to finish with an impressive 5/7 score, placing 26th overall and tying for 14th. This remarkable result is a testament to Max’s dedication and skill, and we couldn’t be prouder of his achievement on the national stage. Congratulations, Max, on this well-deserved success!



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www.njkidsonline.com/camp-fairs

all fairs 12-3pm



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WHARTON PAS ANNOUNCES NEW LOCATION FOR SUMMER CAMPS

The Wharton Performing Arts School (PAS) is pleased to announce that all 2026 Summer Camps will take place at a new location: 570 Central Avenue in New Providence—the home of the New Jersey Youth Chorus and New Jersey Youth Symphony. Bringing PAS summer programming to this site allows Wharton Arts to host all camps under one roof and create a unified, convenient experience for its student families.

“We’re excited to welcome our summer campers to a new home this year,” said PAS Director Debra Joyal. “This location supports our commitment to providing a fun, engaging, and inspiring summer for every student.”

Wharton Arts’ 2026 summer camps feature programs in music, drama, and musical theater for students of various ages and experience levels. Registration is now open online. For more information and complete summer camp listing, visit WhartonArts.org.

The Wharton Performing Arts School (PAS) is proud to be part of Wharton Arts, New Jersey’s largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center, serving nearly 2,000 students each year through a wide range of programs. PAS has been nurturing artistic excellence and creativity in the community for 40 years. Offering programs in music and performing arts, the school empowers students to develop their talents, confidence, and lifelong appreciation for the arts.

Wharton Arts’ mission is to offer accessible,

high quality performing arts education that sparks personal growth and builds inclusive communities.

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

Wharton Arts is New Jersey’s largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center serving nearly 2,000 students through a range of classes and ensembles. The 5 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Chorus, an auditioned choral ensemble program for students in grades 3–12, encourage a love and appreciation of choral music while nurturing personal growth and creative development. The 15 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Symphony, which serve over 500 students in grades 3–12 by audition, inspire young people to achieve musical excellence through high-level ensemble training and performance opportunities. Based in Paterson, the Paterson Music Project is an El Sistema-inspired program of Wharton Arts that uses music education as a vehicle for social action by empowering and inspiring young people to achieve their full potential through the community experience of ensemble learning and playing. From Pathways classes for young children to Lifelong Learning programs for adults, the Wharton Performing Arts School has a robust musical theater and drama program and offers both private and group classes for



instruments and voice for all ages and all abilities. With the belief in the positive and unifying influence of music and that performing arts education should be accessible to all people regardless of their ability to pay, Wharton Arts offers need-based scholarships.

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



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FIRST AID SQUAD

The Millburn-Short Hills Volunteer First Aid Squad is continuously seeking volunteers. If you are at least 21 years of age and would like to serve our community, please consider joining this team of local heroes.

Learn more about volunteering and training here: mshvfas.org/volunteer-today



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SHARP-SHINNED HAWK RELEASED BACK TO WILD

This feisty Sharp-shinned Hawk was admitted on 12/22 after being found in a yard in Warren following a window strike. On intake, the hawk had bloody nares and mouth, consistent with head trauma often seen after collisions. The nares are a bird's nostrils, located near the base of the beak, and bleeding there often points to head or facial trauma from collisions.

With supportive care and time to heal, this "Sharpie" as we call them, made great progress and was moved to an outside flight cage on 12/28/25. After proving strong, steady flight and good awareness, the hawk was successfully released back to the wild on 1/2/2026.

Sharp-shinned Hawks are incredibly fast and agile forest hunters, built to weave through dense trees while chasing small birds. That same speed and focus, however, can make them especially vulnerable to window strikes when reflective glass looks like open sky or habitat.

Remember, small changes matter, adding window decals is a simple way to help protect avian wildlife.



ABOUT THE RAPTOR TRUST

The Raptor Trust is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located at 1390 White Bridge Rd., Millington, NJ. They provide free care and assistance to injured, sick, or orphaned wild birds. They offer educational programs to the public about wild birds, especially birds of prey. They strive to provide a human example for others. For more information, or to make a donation visit info@theraptortrust.org. To report an injured bird call 908-647-2353.

RAPTOR TRUST SUMMER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Each year from mid-May through August, The Raptor Trust receive hundreds of injured, orphaned, or displaced nestling and fledgling songbirds found by citizens. We see this time as a perfect opportunity to provide experience and education to students who wish to learn about wildlife care and rehabilitation.

POSITION DATES: MAY THROUGH AUGUST 2026

Scheduling: Approximately 24-40 hours per week, including some evenings and weekends

Location: The Raptor Trust. 1390 White Bridge Road, Millington, NJ 07946

This is an unpaid, volunteer position. College students committed to this position may meet the criteria for eligibility to apply for our volunteer scholarship. This opportunity can also be modified to meet most schools' criteria in qualifying for an academic "internship" or experience credit.

While students in all areas of study are welcome to apply, preference may be given to students who have completed or are currently enrolled in relevant coursework including Ecology, Biology, and Animal Science related studies.

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY FEB 6TH, 2026.

To apply, please submit an application, resume, and cover letter through our website at theraptortrust.org/summer-scholars-program. A selection of 2-3 references whom we may contact is optional. Contact Amanda Cannizzo

at acannizzo@theraptortrust.org

If you are interested, Visit theraptortrust.org or email volunteers@theraptortrust.org

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Selected projects may qualify for professionally documented renovations, special project pricing, and potential homeowner compensation in exchange for filming participation and release.

Call 833-375-1472
Ask for the TV Project Department
Serious inquiries only.

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION - FEB 8TH

The Millburn community will welcome the Year of the Horse with a Lunar New Year celebration on Sunday, February 8, 2026, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Millburn High School gyms.

The event is open to all, with free admission.

Organized by Millburn Short Hills Chinese Association and the Millburn Institute of Talent, the celebration will feature cultural activities, family-friendly festivities, diverse food offerings, and pop-up live performances throughout the event.

ALEXANDER WANG NAMED TOP SCHOLAR

Millburn Township Public Schools

We're excited to celebrate Alexander Wang, an 18-year-old senior at Millburn High School, who has been named one of the Top 300 Scholars in the 2026 Regeneron Science Talent Search, the nation's oldest and most prestigious science and math competition for high school seniors.

Alexander was recognized for his original research project, "Bounds on the Number of Edges in Visibility Hypergraphs," earning him a place among more than 2,600 students from across the U.S. and around the world. Scholars are selected based on exceptional research, academic excellence, creativity, and leadership, highlighting Alexander's impressive dedication to advanced mathematical research and problem-solving.

Congratulations to Alexander on this remarkable achievement! We are incredibly proud of him and the curiosity, rigor, and innovation he brings to Millburn High School!

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MILLBURN LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL
美食 / 游园 / 快闪表演
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CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ

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Elmora Hills
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Zip: 07208

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Zip: 07023

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Qty: 6,000
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Qty: 6,300
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Short Hills MILLBURN MONTHLY NJ

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MORRIS TOWNSHIP TIMES NJ

Qty: 13,500
Zip: 07960, Harding 07976

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OUR TOWN Rahway, NJ

Qty: 13,100
Zip: 07065

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Qty: 5,600
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Scotch Plains NJ
WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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Summit Times NJ

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Spirit of UNION NJ

Qty: 7,800
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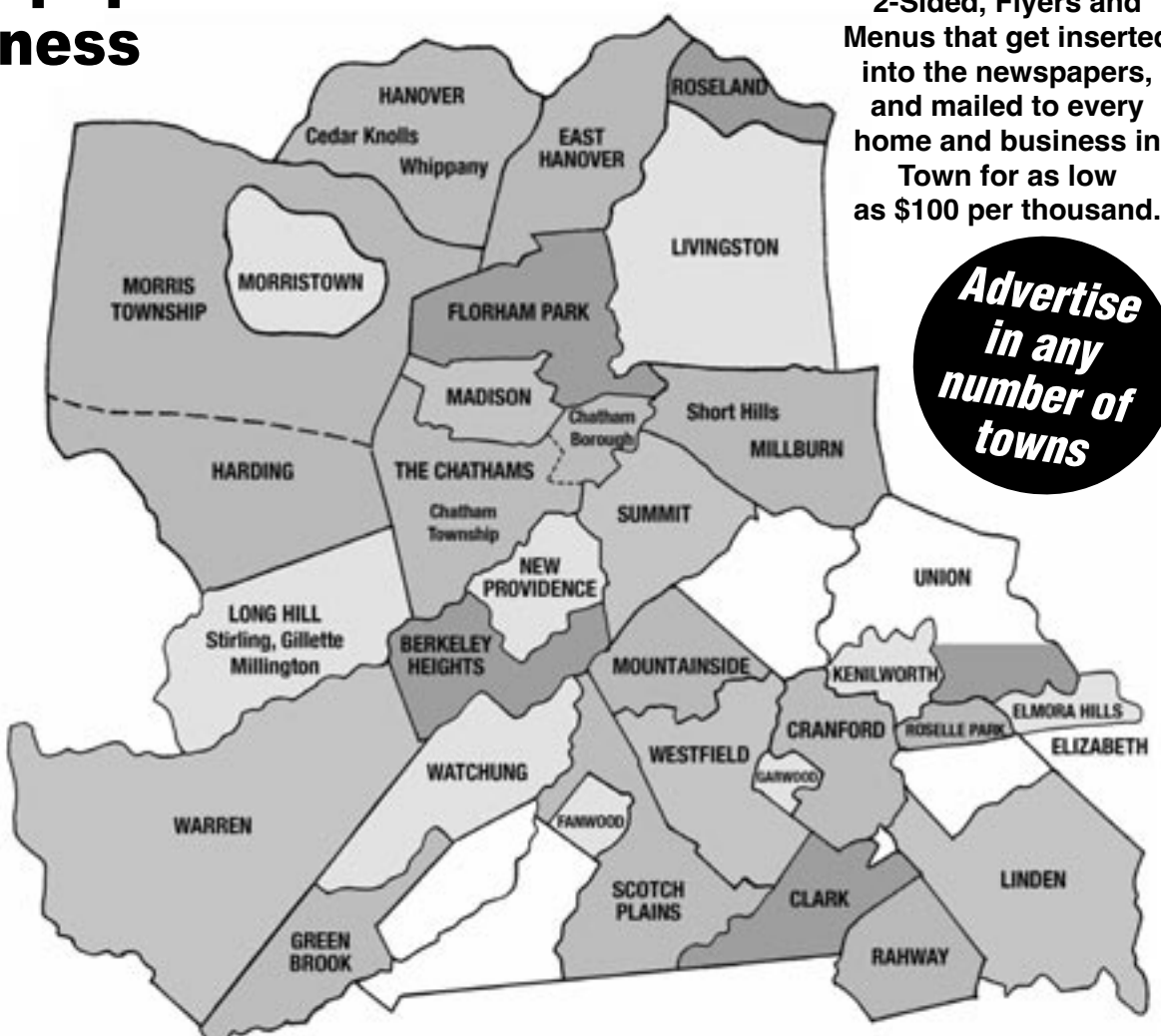
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100	260	360	460	560	600	660	700	800	900	1000
150	360	560	600	700	800	900	1000	1100	1200	1300
240	560	900	1000	1300	1600	1700	1800	1900	2000	2100
320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
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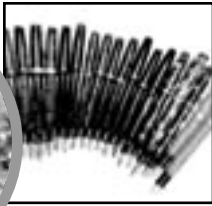


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