

# WARREN MONTHLY NJ

WARREN'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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## SCOUTS HOSTS RECORD-SETTING PINWOOD DERBY

Submitted by Adam Lella

Scout Pack 182 held its annual Pinewood Derby on Jan 10th, drawing its largest crowd in years with more than 80 Scouts and 20+ siblings entering their personally made pinewood derby cars for a friendly competition.

Each year scouts design and create their own car to participate in the race. We also include siblings to join the fun during a dedicated race session later in the day.

I want to personally thank all parents and volunteers who made the event possible. Car handlers, checkin-crew, technology logistics, food helpers, setup crews, and cleanup teams all played a critical role in keeping the busy schedule running smoothly.

A special thanks to Mayor Fine for taking time to visit the event, meet the Scouts, and show support for the local Scouting community.

The day concluded with an awards ceremony recognizing the scouts and siblings. With record participation and strong family engagement, this year's Pinewood Derby reinforced its status as a treasured Pack 182 tradition.

Scouts have spent weeks designing, building, and

decorating their own unique wooden cars from simple blocks of wood, learning valuable lessons in design, physics, and engineering along the way. The event encourages creativity, with awards given not just for speed but also for categories like Best Design.

If your son is interested in joining Pack 182 and in grades K-5th please reach out to Adam Lella at [cubmaster@warrenpack182.org](mailto:cubmaster@warrenpack182.org).



### Ashley's December Warren Market Update

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\$1,271,077  
Average Sales Price

▲ Increased from last month

13 # of sales

▲ Increased from last month

48 Average Days on Market

▼ Decreased from last month

23 # of houses on the market

▼ Decreased from last month



COMPASS

# WARREN MONTHLY

Renna Media, LLC, Publishers  
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## E-BIKE SAFETY PRESENTATION FOR STUDENTS

### Warren Township Schools

Students at Warren Middle School (WMS) recently took part in an informative e-bike safety presentation held in the school gymnasium, aimed at promoting safe riding practices and educating students on the rules of the road. The presentation was led by RiseWise, a Somerset County-based organization dedicated to providing information on environmentally friendly transportation.

During the presentation, students learned about the increasing use of e-bikes and the importance of riding safely and responsibly. RiseWise representatives covered essential topics such as

wearing proper safety gear, understanding traffic laws and road signs, and safely sharing the road with pedestrians and vehicles. The session also highlighted how e-bikes differ from traditional bicycles and the role they play in sustainable transportation.

At the conclusion of the presentation, students participated in an engaging question-and-answer session that featured different teams, encouraging collaboration and active involvement from everyone in attendance.

RiseWise continues to partner with schools and community organizations throughout Somerset County to promote safe, responsible, and environmentally friendly transportation.



(above) RideWise and members of the Warren Township Police Department

(above) RideWise and members of

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# SHANNON PISANI NAMED 2025-2026 EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

## SCVTHS

Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School (SCVTHS) is pleased to announce that Science instructor Shannon Pisani is the school's 2025-2026 Educator of the Year. Mrs. Pisani graduated from Rider University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a minor in Marine Science. She had always been interested in teaching, and, in fact, had applied to college as an Education major before she realized she loved



(above) Science instructor Shannon Pisani, the 2025-2026 Educator of the Year at Somerset County Vocational & Technical Schools

Photo by SCVTHS

science and switched her degree track. However, upon graduating college she soon discovered that she did not want a career as a lab technician.

After a friend suggested that she look into a career in education, Mrs. Pisani decided to follow the alternate route pathway to becoming a teacher. She has been an educator for twelve years, and is currently in her eleventh year at SCVTHS, teaching classes in Earth & Space Science and Workplace Readiness, as well as a Principles of Anatomy class geared specifically to students enrolled in the Cosmetology program. She also serves on the school's Social Emotional Learning committee and is an advisor to the Red Cross Club, the Peer Mentor program, and the Student Council. As a member of the SCVTHS Green Team, she was instrumental in securing a Bronze Certification from Sustainable Jersey for Schools, which recognizes achievement in the development of environmental best practices and learning opportunities.

A number of students and fellow staff members nominated Mrs. Pisani for the Educator of the Year award. Student nominations cited her kindness, patience, and energy, as well as her ability to relate to her students and to explain course material in an easy to understand manner. They also appreciate her obvious desire to see her students succeed. Her peers echoed these sentiments, while also praising her leadership, innovation, and willingness to collaborate with

staff as she builds a "culture of respect, inclusion, and success that extends far beyond her classroom."

Maria Johnson, SCVTHS Director of Special Services, praised Mrs. Pisani for her contributions to the school community. "Shannon is a remarkable teacher whose passion for the Biological and Earth & Space sciences is always on display in the classroom," she said. "As she begins each class with an 'Earth Update,' she supports students' curiosity and critical thinking skills and engages them in relevant science content. Shannon is a kind, respected educator who views science not just as a science, but as a tool for understanding the world."

When she is not at SCVTHS, Mrs. Pisani, a Hillsborough native, enjoys boating and travelling with her husband. She also coaches girls aged 8-12 in gymnastics as part of a Jersey Optional Gymnastics Association (JOGA) competitive program.

"I have been fortunate to find a career that gives me an opportunity to combine my passions for science and education," said Mrs. Pisani. "I am thankful to my family and the school community for supporting me and honoring me for doing a job I love."

For more information on this story, please contact Steve Philip at (908) 526 - 8900 x7267 or [sphilip@scvts.net](mailto:sphilip@scvts.net).

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## ALT STUDENTS ENJOY A SPECIAL VISIT

### Warren Township Public Schools

Kindergarten students at Angelo L. Tomaso School (ALT) were all ears and big smiles when former mayor and community member Victor Sordillo visited the school library to read his brand-new children's book, *Rusty the Rescue Dog*, to an eager group of young learners.

Rusty, a safety-savvy canine, brings important lessons to life in a way that children connect with and enjoy. Through Rusty's fun adventures, young readers learn how to recognize risks and make safe choices.

The reading was led by Alicia Drozd, Sordillo's daughter and a parent at ALT. After the reading in the library, the kindergarten class had the opportunity to ask questions about the book and Rusty's lessons. The energy in the room was joyful as students shared what they learned and talked about their favorite parts of the story.

Each student received a copy of *Rusty the Rescue Dog* to take home, a keepsake to remind them of the day they met Rusty and discovered how fun learning about safety can be.

This special book giveaway was made possible thanks to the donation of the books by Dr. Ryan Saadi, a Warren resident. His support ensured that every kindergarten student left with a copy, excited to read more stories with family and friends.

The illustrations in the book were created by the talented Jennifer Ronkiewicz, an art teacher from Warren Middle School, whose artwork brought Rusty's world and safety lessons to life on the page.

*Rusty the Rescue Dog* encourages curiosity, safety awareness, and confidence, and through events like this one, the community continues to nurture a love of reading and learning in its youngest members.



(above) Dr. Ryan Saadi, Victor Sordillo, and Alicia Drozd

Photo by Warren Township Schools



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## CALLING ALL VETERANS

VFW Post 6259, located in Berkeley Heights, is looking for new members to join our ranks and to continue your service. Not a veteran of a foreign war? Come join us anyway for camaraderie and help us start an auxiliary group at the Post. Call Steve Mondragon at 908-403-1902 for more information.



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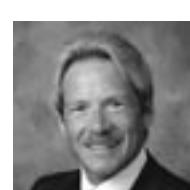
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## LOCAL DAR PREPARES FOR AMERICA'S 250TH

Members of Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) are readying to observe America's semi-quicentennial. There are plans for public programs, a monument rededication, and several service projects.

America's 250th birthday was the theme of the chapter's entry in the Somerset County Park Commission's Festival of Trees in December and

the chapter's 130th Anniversary Luncheon and Winter Meeting in January.

"It is a great time to be a member of DAR and participate in this historic celebration," said Regent Nancy Stoll. "There will be events hosted by the DAR state and national societies."

The mission of the DAR is to foster patriotism, historical preservation, support education and community service. In 2025, DAR members

logged 7.4 million service hours.

Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter is based in Green Brook and serves areas of Somerset, Middlesex and Union counties. Any woman, 18 or over, who can prove descent from a person who aided the cause of independence, is eligible to join. If you need assistance tracing your genealogy, DAR can help. Contact the chapter at ESCchapterDAR@gmail.com.



(above) DAR members with their America 250 entry in the Festival of Trees. The DAR tree featured profiles of members' patriot ancestors.

Courtesy Photo



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# VETERANS AND FAMILIES HONORED FOR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

## Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School

Students in Edward Graf's Social Studies classes at Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School (SCVTHS) recently spent a day acknowledging and honoring veterans and Gold Star families. The event, held at a local

VFW Post, featured speeches, food, and an opportunity for students to spend time talking to service members and their families, who provided a glimpse of history as seen by those who experienced it first-hand.

This marks the thirteenth year that SCVTHS students have organized the Veterans Day



(above) SCVTHS Social Studies instructor Edward Graf speaks to veterans, Gold Star families, and students during the annual Veterans Day commemoration. This is the thirteenth year that his students have organized the event to honor those who have served our country in the military.

Photo by SCVTHS

commemoration. The event lasted most of the day, with 140 students arriving early in the morning, before sunrise, to decorate the hall and prepare for the arrival of their guests.

The focus of the day was honoring those who paid the ultimate price while members of the military. Seven Gold Star families watched as students unfurled large banners honoring their relatives who died while serving our country. In addition, roughly 30 Armed Services veterans were honored at the event.

Following the ceremony, students served a hot lunch to their guests, and then joined them to eat and talk. After lunch, students and veterans broke up into small groups to discuss service, patriotism, and honor.

"Our students promote what we like to call an 'attitude of gratitude,'" said Mr. Graf. "This event shows how much our school and our community appreciates the service and sacrifice of these veterans and families."



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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.

For more information, or to make a donation visit [info@theraptortrust.org](mailto: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.

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# WARREN LIBRARY FEBRUARY 2026 EVENTS

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## PRE-SCHOOLERS

### Baby Song and Rhyme Time

Tuesdays, February 3, 10, 17, 24,  
10:30-11:30am

This interactive program is filled with brain-building rhymes, movement, songs and stories.

## KIDS

### Book Buddies: Celebrate Frog and Toad

Thursday February 5, 4:30-5:00pm

Hear some stories and participate in activities and crafts celebrating our favorite book buddies!

### Read to a Therapy Dog

Monday, February 9, 4:30-5:30pm

Drop-in between 4:30 and 5:30pm to practice your reading skills by reading a story to a certified therapy dog. No registration required.

### Heart Collage

Wednesday, February 11, 3:00-5:00pm;

Saturday February 14, 2026 11:00am-2:00pm

Drop-in to make a collage using hearts of many sizes and colors! Parental supervision required.

### Kids in the Kitchen

Monday February 23, 4:30-5:15pm

Build your cooking skills and socialize with other kids as we make a new recipe each session!

### Art in the Style of: Reggie Laurent

Monday, February 25, 4:30-5:15pm

Join us to learn more about the artist Reggie Laurent and then create artwork using his signature style!

### LEGO® Club

Saturday, February 28, 11:00am-12:00pm

Join the fun if you like building with LEGO® bricks! Bring your creativity.

## FAMILIES

### Family Storytime and Craft

Thursdays, February 5, 12, 19, 26,

10:15-11:00am; 11:15am-12:00pm

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### Winter Creature Survivors (all ages)

Saturday February 7, 11:00am-12:00pm

Meet some animal ambassadors and learn how some animals prepare for winter.

### STEAM Building

Tuesday, February 10, 4:00-5:00pm

Drop-in between 4:00 and 5:00pm to discover new items to build with. Parental supervision is required.

### Lunar New Year Horse Craft

Tuesday, February 17, 1:00-3:00pm

Drop-in between 1-3pm to make two colorful horse crafts. Parental supervision is required.

### Donut Decorating with Duck Donuts (ages 5+)

Saturday, February 21 11:00am-12:00pm

Decorate fresh Duck Donuts with seasonal toppings and icings!

## TWEENS/TEENS

### Teen Volunteer Night

Thursday, February 5, 6:00-7:00pm

Connect with other teens as you help with Participants earn one community service hour.

### Abstract Art Design

Thursdays, February 12, 19, 6:00-7:00pm

Earn volunteer credit as you connect with other teens as you create illusion art.

### Anime Your Way: Drawing Workshop

Thursday February 26, 5:00-6:15pm

Create and modify an anime character from scratch, no matter what your drawing level is!

## ADULTS

### English Conversation Group

Wednesdays, February 4, 11, 18, 25,  
10:30-11:30am

Practice speaking English in a friendly setting. Intermediate English skills are required.

### In-Branch Movie

#### The theme for February is Rom-Coms.

We will be voting from a list of favorite Rom-Coms. Titles will be announced in mid January  
*Films will be shown on Thursdays at 1:30pm*

February 5, 12, 19, 26, 1:30-3:30pm

### New Orleans:

### America's Most Important Musical City

Saturday, February 7, 2:00-3:30pm

Get into the Mardi Gras spirit with this program celebrating culture of New Orleans.

### Yarns and Threads

Mondays, February 9, 23, 10:00am-12:00pm  
Bring your own project and join this group of friendly fiber fanatics.

### Adult Drop-In Craft: Valentine's Day Cards

Friday February 13, 1:00-3:00pm

Explore your creativity and create a Valentine's Day Card for someone you love

### Preserving Family Photographs

Saturday February 21, 2:00-3:30pm

Guidance on how the life of printed family photographs can be extended.

### How to Use Today's AI Tools to Simplify Life

Monday February 23, 6:30-7:30pm

This program will take a deep dive into how AI.

### Hybrid Book Discussion "The Heaven & Earth

#### Grocery Store" by James McBride

Wednesday February 25, 2 - 3:30 p.m.



# WARRENBROOK SENIOR CENTER - FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Warrenbrook Senior Center located at 500 Warrenville Road is one of the six county operated Senior Center. Somerset County residents who are 60 years and older are welcome to participate in any of the programs at Warrenbrook Senior Center. They also provide a choice of 4 different meal choices during lunch that seniors can take advantage of during the weekdays. All the programs are free for the registered members. Please call 908-753-9440 for more information on how to become member of the Warrenbrook Senior Community.

## 1 on 1 Computers with Sal

Mondays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

By the end of an 8-week, one-on-one class, you will understand what your grandkids have been trying to explain to you.

## Chair Yoga with Kartika

Mondays, 10 a.m.

This class is open to all levels of skill.

## 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 Tuesdays.

## Tai Chi with Roger Hsu

Tuesdays & Fridays, 10 a.m.

This program can be practiced while either standing or sitting.

## Bridge Group with Ronnie

Tuesdays, 1 – 4 p.m.

Welcome new members and beginners (lessons available).

## Stretch & Strength

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

An 8-week exercise class that involves stretch & strength. Stretching keeps the muscles flexible, strong, and healthy. The exercise can be done with or without weight.

## Project Healthy Bones

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

This peer-led, 24-week exercise and education program is for individuals who are at risk of osteoporosis or have it.

## Craft Activities

4th Monday, 1 – 4 p.m.

This is a great opportunity for artists & crafters to meet new people while creating an art piece or craft. 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.

## Afternoon Yoga with Wai-Ling Poon

Thursdays, 1 p.m.

Take a break, relax, and recharge with our Gentle Afternoon Chair Yoga session. Perfect for all fitness levels. Come stretch, breathe, and enjoy a peaceful moment in your day!

## Bridge

Fridays, 1 – 4 p.m.

Playing bridge regularly stimulates your brain and helps keep your memory active and your brain alert.

## Let's Get Physical!

February 2, 11 a.m.

A physical therapist who will demonstrate exercises that are safe, effective, and easy to do on your own.

## The Somerset County Traveling Library

February 2, 1 p.m.

Library staff to sign up for a library card, get help troubleshooting technology, check out a book, or just share a favorite book.

## Creative Movements with Tom McKie

February 3, 11 a.m.

Ditch the sofa and find your inner groove with creative movements that will get you moving, grooving and laughing on your way to the dance floor with Tom McKie.

## Chinese Dragon Puppet Craft

February 4, 11 a.m.

Join friends for a relaxed, social afternoon of art and conversation as we craft cheerful dragon puppets to welcome happiness and good luck. No experience needed - just bring your smile and enjoy a fun, festive time together! All materials will be provided.

## Breathing techniques for Mental Wellness

February 5, 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.

## Bingo with Bob Mazet

February 6, 19, 11 a.m.

Bingo promotes socialization, strengthens hand-eye coordination, and improves listening and short-term memory skills.

## Poetry Share Extraordinaire with Yolanda

February 9, 11 a.m.

Join center client and volunteer, Yolanda, to share the poems we love, bring in a poem you love and maybe one you wrote.

## Drum Circle with Anil Sachadev

February 9, 1 p.m.

This is an ancient approach to promote healing and incite self-expression. The benefits of drumming are deep relaxation, lower blood pressure, reduced stress and open communication.

## Wheel of Fortune

February 10, 11 a.m.

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.

## Monthly Book Club

(Hybrid) February 10, 1:30 PM

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

## Keeping Up the Beat: Heart Health

February 11, a.m.

In this program, you will learn the importance of heart disease prevention, how to identify risk factors of heart disease, and steps you can take to keep your heart healthy.

## Studio 60+

February 11 & 25, 1 p.m.

Plan the events you are interested in. Some examples include brainstorming the quarterly Community Service projects, craft work, musical entertainment, jeopardy. They will also practice for their quarterly musical entertainments & drama.

## Valentine's Day Floral Arrangement Class

February 12, 11 a.m.

Discover the joy of flowers in a hands-on-floral

arrangement class! Learn how to create a beautiful bouquet using fresh flowers. All materials will be provided. Pre-registration is required.

## Valentine's Day Musical Entertainment

February 13, 11 a.m.

Lorri Woodward spreading love and joy through the timeless tunes that warm the heart and stir memories. Bring your smiles and celebrate the day with your friends and fellow seniors!

## Warrenbrook Senior Center Closed

February 16 – observance of President's Day Boggle

February 17, 11 a.m.

Join us as we try to find as many words as possible.

## Remembering the '60s Hootenanny

February 18, 11 a.m.

A group of our own senior center clients who have been learning and practicing instruments (many learning the ukulele for the first time!) Prepare for a fun and energetic performance of your favorite hits from the 1960s. Dress in your bell bottoms and tie dye!

## Hearing Screening

February 20, 11 a.m.

Early detection and treatment are important. A free complimentary Hearing Screening.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQD.

## Joyfully Neat

February 23, 11 a.m.

Joy Jacobs will discuss what to do when you feel you have too much stuff and will give ideas on how to become clutter-free.

## Wordle

February 24, 11 a.m.

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

## Fall Prevention Screenings

February 25, 10 a.m.

Our Fall Prevention Screening helps identify potential balance, strength, and mobility concerns before they lead to falls. Participants will receive a brief assessment including vital signs (blood pressure, resting heart rate, etc.), balance and gait evaluation, and personalized recommendations.

## Jeopardy

February 26, 11 a.m.

An exciting game featuring a variety of trivia categories including history, entertainment and more. sure to keep you engaged and entertained.

## Price is right

February 27, 11 a.m.

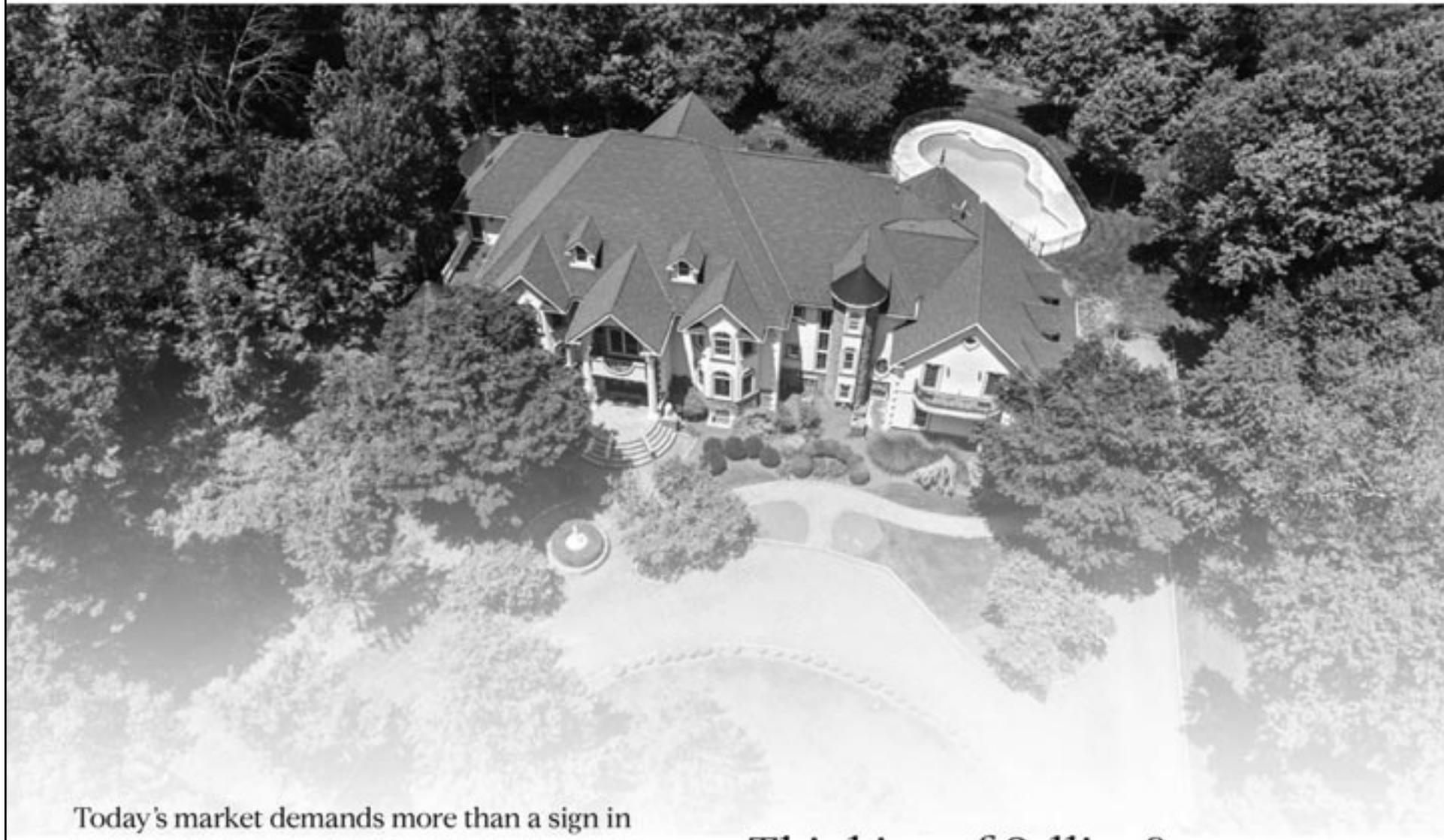
with Sophie Murteira from Brandywine at Middlebrook Crossing by Monarch. Test your shopping savvy, guess the prices of everyday items, and win fabulous (and funny!) prizes. Whether you're playing or cheering from the audience, you're guaranteed a great time.

# *Selling Starts with the Cherie Berger Team*

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115 Skyline Drive, Watchung, NJ



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