

Watchung Post

Watchung's Hometown Newspaper

NJ

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ISSUE 160 • MARCH 2026

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HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS LAUNCH À LA MODE MAGAZINE

"À La Mode Fashion Magazine, a student-founded and student-run fashion publication, officially launches as a bold new voice in youth fashion media. Created by students for students, À La Mode combines editorial storytelling with real conversations about creativity and self-expression in today's fashion landscape.

Founded by Roxana Nasrin and Sarah Levine, seniors at Watchung Hills Regional High School, À La Mode Fashion Magazine was born from a desire to give students with an interest in anything fashion-related to flourish. In their freshman year, Nasrin and Levine were looking for a space to tell stories through visuals that didn't yet exist – so they made their own.

The magazine features original editorials, trend reports, interviews, opinion pieces, and behind-the-scenes coverage of student-led fashion initiatives. Each issue highlights emerging designers, stylists, photographers, writers, and models within the school.

Beyond print and digital publication, À La Mode has expanded into live events and experiential storytelling, including student-produced runway shows, creative collaborations, and school-wide initiatives that celebrate fashion as an art form and a form of expression.

As the school's first fashion magazine, À La Mode represents a successful student start-up driven by passion and collaboration. Funded from the ground up, the club managed to raise enough money to support the printing of the magazine through fundraisers like a school-wide Thrift Shop Pop-Up, where students were encouraged to donate clothing they no longer wore for reselling via À La Mode. Not only did this raise money for the club, but also generated excitement for the magazine around the school and community.

With hundreds of copies sold, the club is already onto producing their next issue set to release in February 2025 – À La Mode: The Global Edit. For more information, upcoming issues, or collaboration inquiries, follow @alamodewhrhs on Instagram or email itss.sarah.rose@gmail.com."



FOUNDED BY
SARAH LEVINE
AND
ROXANA NASRIN



Ashley's December Watchung Market Update



CHERIE BERGER TEAM
The Cherie Berger Team
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cheriebergerteam@compass.com
O: 732.454.3007



\$1,265,000
Average Sales Price

▲ Increased from last month



5 # of sales

▼ No change from last month



46 Average Days on Market

▲ Increased from last month



6 # 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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JAKE HERRING AWARDED ROTC SCHOLARSHIP

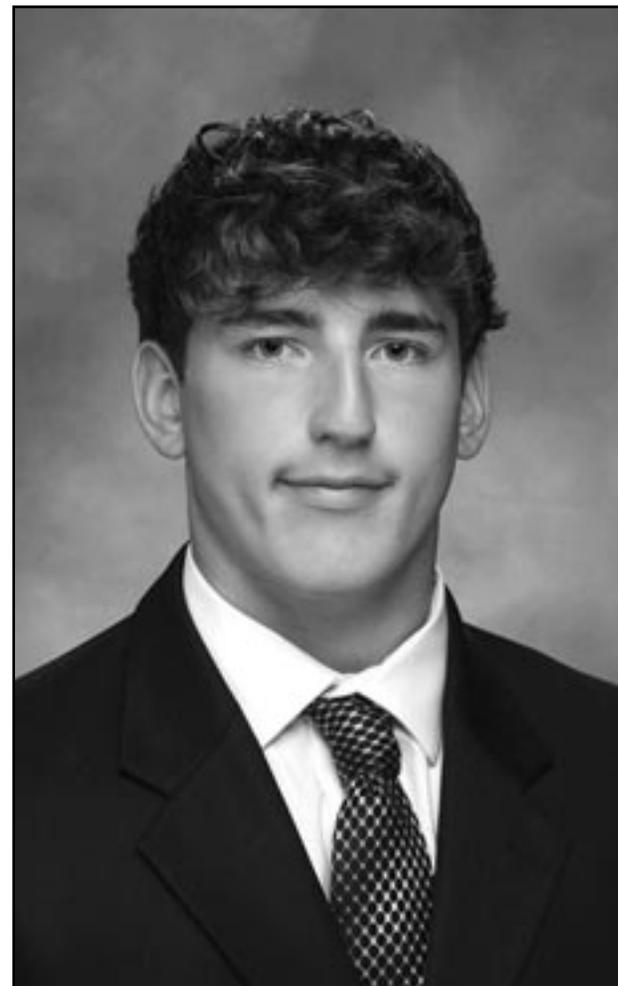
Watchung Hills Regional High School is proud to announce that senior Jake Herring has been awarded a highly competitive Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) scholarship valued at \$180,000, a significant achievement that reflects years of dedication, discipline, and leadership.

The ROTC scholarship selection process is rigorous, with candidates evaluated on academic achievement, physical fitness, leadership potential, and character. Jake distinguished himself in all areas, earning recognition for both his strong academic performance and his commitment to personal growth and service.

Early in his high school career, Jake took a proactive approach to preparing for this opportunity. He researched the ROTC program and its expectations, setting clear academic and personal goals to become a competitive candidate.

Upon graduation, he plans to attend the Virginia Military Institute (VMI), where he will continue his education while participating in the ROTC program. As part of the scholarship requirements, he has committed to accepting a commission and serving as an active-duty member of the United States Marine Corps following the completion of his studies.

The WHRHS community congratulates Jake on this outstanding accomplishment and wishes him continued success as he prepares for a future of leadership and service.



(above) Jake Herring will attend the Virginia Military Institute on a ROTC Scholarship.

Photo by SCVTHS



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The Watchung Garden Club

In 1957, a group of women met with a goal of creating and sharing an interest in gardening, flower arrangement and preservation of our natural environment. We are proud to have met these goals for 69 years. We recently celebrated by wearing 1950's style hats and learned about "Tea Time" etiquette.

This friendly gardening group meets on the first Wednesday of month at 11:30 a.m. in various locations in the Watchung area. The purpose of the club is to stimulate an intelligent interest in gardening and flower arrangement and to have fun. The club is active in community beautification projects, field trips, horticultural workshops, and has an active youth program, as well as other varied programs. Please join us at one of our meetings, we always welcome new members!

For more information, please call 908-754-5766 or e-mail us at gardenclub2016@aol.com.



VOLUNTEERS WANTED! WATCHUNG FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Watchung Fire Department is a 100% volunteer organization that is constantly in need of new members.

Beginning at 16 years old, Watchung residents can join our Junior Firefighter program, which allows them to respond to emergencies under the guidance of experienced firefighters, as well as learn about the fire service and gain valuable knowledge and life skills.

Our Active Firefighters and Associate Members are over 18 years old and come from Watchung and neighboring communities.

Active Firefighters attend basic Firefighter training as well as other training courses, all paid for by the Department. Associate Members assist

with non-firefighting activities such as Membership Recruitment and Retention, Fund Raising, and other administrative duties.

The Borough also offers an incentive plan as well as numerous other benefits to our Volunteer Firefighters, most importantly, the ability to be one of the heroes who helps their neighbors in a time of need.

If you or someone you know has a desire to be a hero in our community, please visit our website at www.watchungfd.org, follow us on Facebook @WatchungFD or email at recruitment@watchungfd.org!

As always, we appreciate the support from our community of Watchung!

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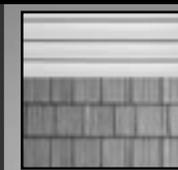
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(above) Scan the QR code to review how we are "veterans helping veterans. You can also enter nj.dav/16.org into your browser.

Courtesy Photo

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OVER 90 YEARS SUPPORTING LOCAL VETS

Gerard P. Walsh,
 DAV Chapter 16 Commander

DAV Chapter 16, located in Somerville, New Jersey, is proud to announce its 93rd anniversary of unwavering support to the local veteran community and their families. For nearly a century, the dedicated members of Chapter 16 have been a steadfast resource, helping veterans navigate the complexities of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) system and access the benefits they have earned through their service. Chapter 16 provides crucial assistance in several key areas, including:

NAVIGATING THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION:

Offering guidance and support in understanding the often-intricate processes of the VA.

OBTAINING MEDICAL CARE:

Help veterans access the healthcare services they need and are entitled to.

FILING DISABILITY CLAIMS:

Provide expert assistance in preparing and submitting disability claims to the VA.

AWARENESS OF NEW VA PROGRAMS:

Keeping veterans informed about the latest VA initiatives, including specialized and community care options.

"For 93 years, DAV Chapter 16 has stood as a beacon of support for the men and women who have bravely served our nation," said Gerard P. Walsh Chapter Commander and Richard Pirrello Treasurer. "We are deeply committed to ensuring

that our veterans and their families receive the information and assistance they need to access the vital resources provided by the VA. Our longevity speaks to the enduring need for this support and the dedication of our members " Since WWI."

The chapter's commitment extends beyond just providing information. Members offer a sense of camaraderie and understanding, connecting veterans with others who have shared similar experiences. This peer-to-peer support is invaluable in helping veterans transition to civilian life and address the unique challenges they may face.

DAV Chapter 16 encourages all local veterans and their families to reach out for assistance. Scan the QR code to review how we are "veterans helping veterans. You can also enter nj.dav/16.org into your browser.

ABOUT DAV (DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS):

DAV is a non-profit organization that empowers veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. It provides a wide range of services to veterans of all generations and their families, advocating for their rights and helping them access healthcare, education, employment and other benefits they have earned.

ABOUT DAV CHAPTER 16 SOMERVILLE NJ:

Located in Somerville, New Jersey (08876), DAV Chapter 16 has been serving the local veteran community for 93 years. The chapter provides guidance

DAV Chapter 16 encourages all local veterans and their families to reach out for assistance.

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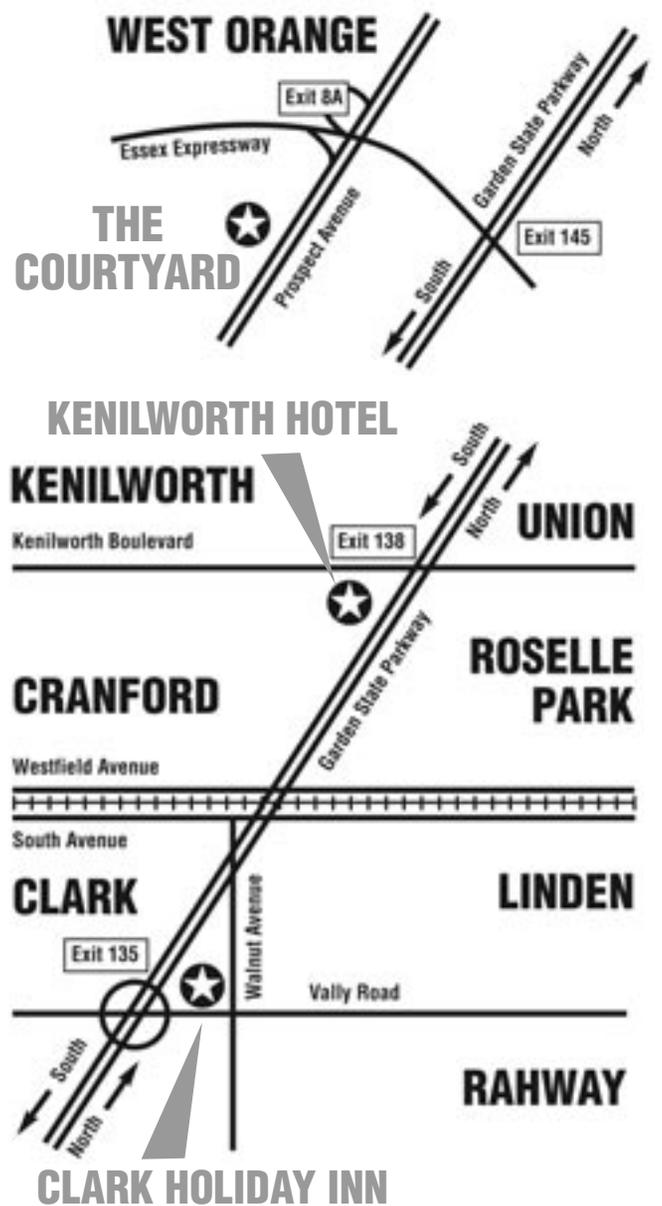
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WATCHUNG LIBRARY MARCH 2026 EVENTS

The following programs are hosted at SCLSNJ's Watchung Library, located at 20 Stirling Rd. unless otherwise noted. Some programs require registration. Visit SCLSNJ.org to register today. For additional assistance, call (908) 845-8400. To discover all SCLSNJ has to offer, visit SCLSNJ.org or connect with SCLSNJ on Facebook, Instagram, X or YouTube.

BIRTH TO 3 YEARS

(with caregiver)

Baby/Toddler Storytime

Monday, March 2, 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

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

BIRTH TO 5 YEARS

(with caregiver)

Music with Miss Donna

Monday, March 30, 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.

AGES 4 AND UP

Bingo with Miss June

Wednesday, March 18, 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

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

Makers Day Craft and Snack: St. Patrick's Day

Tuesday, March 17, 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Make a St. Patrick's Day craft. Light snacks and beverages will be served.

GRADES K - 5

LEGO® Fun

Wednesday, March 11, 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Makers Day Candy Sushi

Monday, March 16, 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Make candy sushi out of rice crispy treats, fruit roll ups, and fish shaped fruit snacks

STEAM: Red Cup Challenge

Tuesday, March 24, 4:30 - 5:15 p.m.

Discover engineering and take the red cup challenge. Break into teams and build a tower, using cups, string, rubber bands, and straws.

The hardest part: hands are not allowed to touch the cups

Paint and Snack: Hot Chocolate Painting

Tuesday, March 31, 4:30 - 5:15 p.m.

Discover how to paint step-by-step using cocoa powder. Hot chocolate and light snacks will be served.

GRADES 6 - 12

Teen Volunteer Afternoon:

Letters to Community Helpers

Thursday, March 19, 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 Storytime: Move and Groove

(families with children)

Monday, March 9, 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Discover songs, stories, and movement in this active storytime.

Star Lab: A Planetarium Experience

(all ages)

Friday, March 27, 4:30 - 5:15 p.m.

Discover the Milky Way galaxy, the solar system, constellations, and the night sky as it appears that evening. Join us to see what's out there! Hosted at Wilson Memorial Church.

ADULT

Adult Book Discussion

Thursday, March 12: 6:30pm - 7:45pm

"The Time Machine" by H. G. Wells

Hosted at Wilson Memorial Church

Gossiping Birds Tote

Thursday, March 19 & Saturday, March 21
10:30 a.m. - Noon

Use neon fabric paints to create a Gossiping Birds tote.



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WARRENBROOK SENIOR CENTER - MARCH 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.

Watercolor Paint Class

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 are included.

Chair Yoga with Kartika

Mondays, 10 a.m.

This class is open to all levels of skill. No fee for this ongoing class.

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.

Tai Chi with Roger Hsu

Tuesdays & Fridays, 10 a.m.

Tai Chi can help reduce falls, especially for those with balance problems. This program can be practiced while either standing or sitting.

Bridge Group

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. No fee for this ongoing class.

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.

Advanced Bridge

1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 1 – 3:30 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. This is a closed group and is available by invitation only.

Craft Activities

3rd & 5th Monday, 1 – 4 p.m.

This is a great opportunity for artists & crafters to meet new people while creating an art piece or craft. We all work on doing craft work for Community Service projects throughout the year. This quarter, we are creating cards for our Meals on Wheels clients. All supplies will be provided.

Line Dancing

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.

Afternoon Yoga

Thursdays, 1 p.m.

Recharge with our Gentle Afternoon Chair Yoga session. This class uses seated and standing poses (with the support of a chair)

Bridge

Fridays, 1 – 4 p.m.

Bridge is a mentally challenging card game that offers intellectual and social stimulation.

Emergency Preparedness

March 2, 11 a.m.

Learn the importance of evacuation procedures and practicing drills that can assist you with responding effectively.

Traveling Library

March 2, 1 p.m.

Sign up for a library card, get help troubleshooting technology, check out a book, or just share a favorite book you are reading.

Creative Movements

March 3, 11 a.m.

Find your inner groove with creative movements that will get you moving, grooving and laughing on your way to the dance floor.

Nutrition in Older Adults

March 4, 11 a.m.

Part 1 of a 4-part nutrition series. Part 1, Nutrition in Older Adults, will provide education on how you can meet specific nutrition and caloric needs.

Brain Games

March 5, 11 a.m.

Join Warrenbrook Staff for some mind-tingling and brain-stumping word games.

Bingo

March 6, 19, 11 a.m.

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

Fair Housing

March 9, 11 a.m.

The presentations include topics like: Fair housing scenarios; Identity theft and scams; Credit mistakes to avoid and myths/facts.

Wheel of Fortune

March 10, 11 a.m.

Perfect for all levels of ability, Wheel of Fortune brings people together!

Monthly Book Club

(Hybrid) March 10, 1:30 PM

New members are always welcome! **Only for Warrenbrook Senior Center Participants**

Focus on Fiber

March 11, 11 a.m.

Learn all about fiber, discover the benefits of a fiber-rich diet and simple ways you can incorporate more fiber into daily meals.

Studio 60+

March 11 & 25, 1 p.m.

This year's theme will be geared to programs to celebrate 250th anniversary of America.

St. Patty's Craft

March 12, 11 a.m.

Floating Lucky Duck craft activity!

The Fight for the Right to Vote

March 13, 11 a.m.

Enjoy this lively talk filled with images, documents, and stories from inspiring and trailblazing women.

Celtic Music Journey

March 16, 11 a.m.

Celebrate the St. Patrick's Day with this program which showcases well-known songs.

Boggle

March 17, 11 a.m.

Boggle is a challenging word game.

Sodium Bingo

March 18, 11 a.m.

Part 3 of this 4-part series. In this 3rd education session, we'll enjoy a fun bingo game while learning about hidden sodium in foods.

Fall prevention

March 20, 11 a.m.

An informative and engaging presentation on how to reduce your risk of falling and stay confident in your daily activities.

Blood Pressure Screening

March 23, 10 a.m.

Join Nina Raps and students from the Rutgers Mario Ernesto School of Pharmacy for blood pressure screening.

Seasonal Allergies and How to manage them

March 23, 11 a.m.

Don't let allergies slow you down. Come and discover ways to breathe easier this season!

Wordle

March 24, 11 a.m.

Dig deep into your vocabulary repertoire and identify some words.

Lessons for a Long Life

March 25, 11 a.m.

Last of the 4-part nutritional series for longevity and vibrant living – to support healthier aging.

Craft – Love Banner

March 26, 11 a.m.

The Craft of Love - a joyful program where creativity, connection, and community come together and celebrate the art of belonging.

Music & Memories

March 27, 11 a.m.

Reminisce, sing, and smile with Music & Memories! Perfect for socializing, relaxing, and enjoying timeless.

Virtual Rainforest

March 30, 11 a.m.

Take a trip to the tropics of the Costa Rican rainforest and many other fascinating sites.

Jeopardy

March 31, 11 a.m.

Whether you are a trivia buff or just enjoy a friendly competition, this interactive game is sure to keep you engaged and entertained.

100TH INCORPORATION

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

As we approach this momentous anniversary, we want to hear from Watchung residents past and present!

Visit watchungnj.gov/centennial-celebration and share your stories and photos from Watchung. Also share any suggestions you have for the Centennial Celebration.

RENNA MEDIA NEWSPAPERS RATE SHEET

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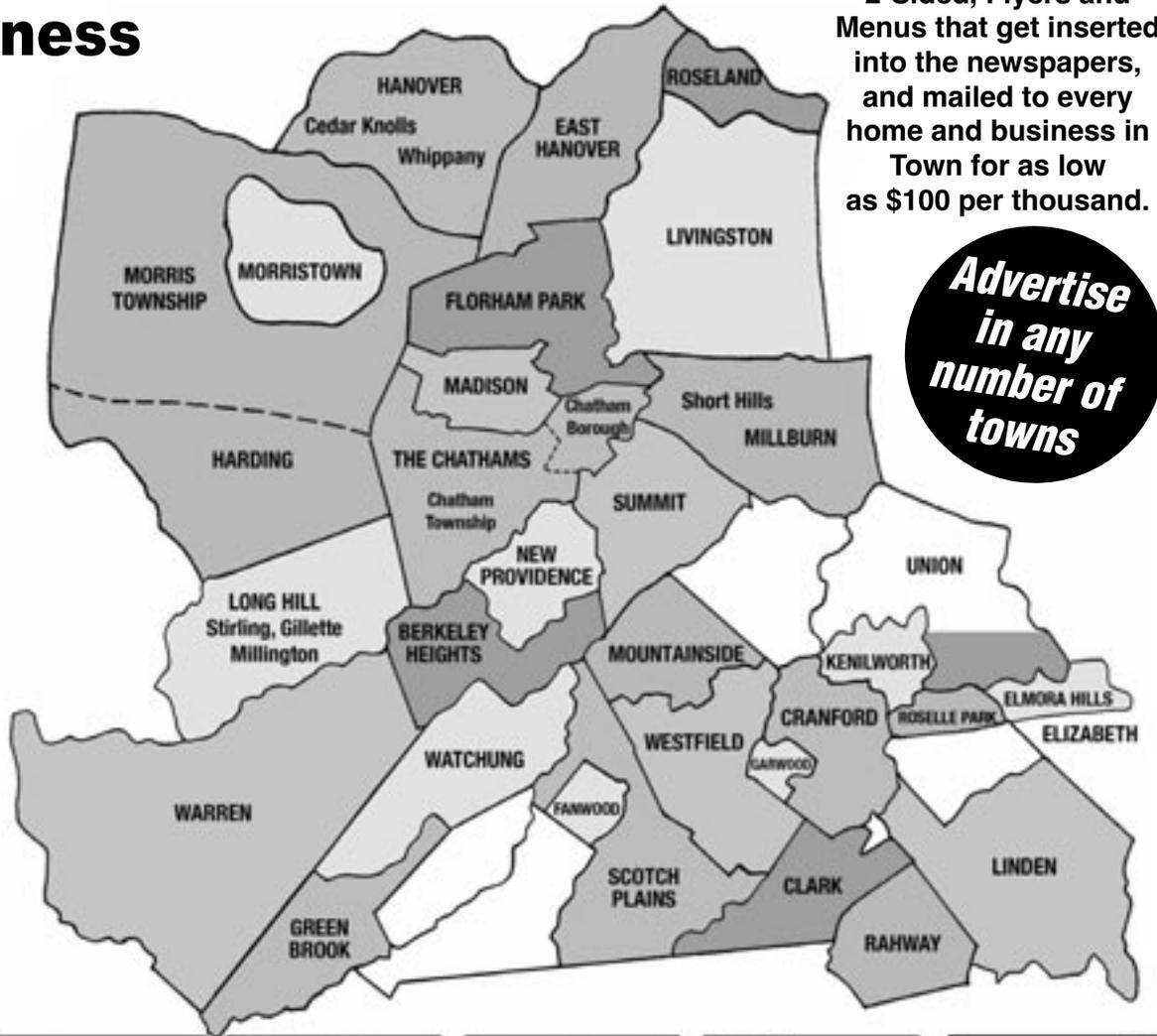
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Life in Roseland NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07068	ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY NJ Qty: 5,600 Zip: 07204	Scotch Plains NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07076	Summit Times NJ Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	Spirit of UNION NJ Qty: 7,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	WARREN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,500 Zip: 07059	Watchung Post NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	Westfield MONTHLY NJ Qty: 12,000 Zip: 07090

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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
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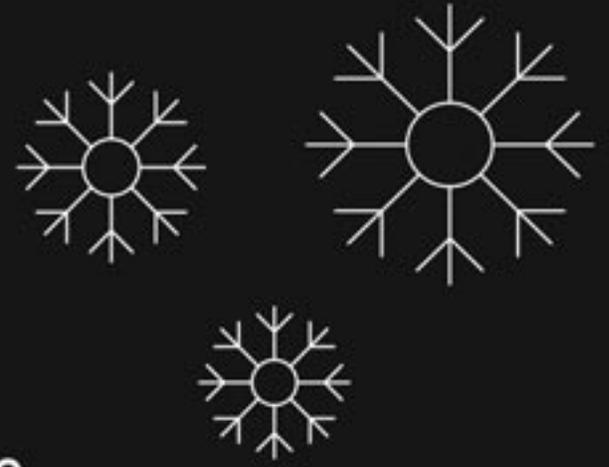
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24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE

Cold Weather, Warm New Beginnings

WITH THE Cherie Berger Team

Thinking About A Change This Winter?



The cold temperatures, snow, and constant upkeep have many homeowners asking the same question:

***Is it time to downsize... simplify...
or move somewhere warmer?***

Whether you're ready for a low-maintenance community, a smaller home, or a fresh start in a new location, the Cherie Berger Team is here to guide you every step of the way.

We specialize in helping homeowners transition smoothly by providing:

- ✓ Expert pricing and strategic marketing
- ✓ Full-service preparation and staging guidance
- ✓ A trusted network of local resources
- ✓ Seamless support from start to finish



Let us take care of the details — so you can focus on what's next.



**CHERIE
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