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SUPERINTENDENT INVITED TO SPEAK AT RAMAPO FORUM

Dr. Steven Caponegro, Florham Park Superintendent of Schools, participated as a panelist at the Ramapo College's Educational Leadership Institute on March 10, 2026 to discuss the current challenges facing school districts and school leaders, particularly the difficulties associated with budgeting and staffing due to increasing health care costs. The other panelists consisted of Superintendents from around the State and a representative from Scarinci & Hollenbeck's law firm.

Dr. Steven Caponegro stated "It is essential for districts, boards of educations, staff, and community members to

recognize how the significant rise in healthcare costs affects school districts. An insurance rate increase of over 20%, and in some districts over 30%, is unsustainable if this pattern continues. This eventually impacts programs, staffing, and services. We are reading about it in the news everyday from districts throughout the state. That is why participating in these leadership groups, which serve as think tanks, is so important for addressing the pressing challenges facing school districts and for developing ideas, suggestions, and possible solutions for the future. I was honored to have been invited to contribute to these discussions."



(above, l-r) Panelists Mr. Israel Marmalejos: Superintendent of Lopatcong Township School District; Dr. Debra Grigolett: Superintendent, Hackettstown Public School District; Dr. Brian Kitchin: Superintendent of West Milford Township Public Schools; Dr. Steven Caponegro: Superintendent of Florham Park School District; Mr. Salvatore Goncalves: Superintendent of Bloomfield School District; Mr. Kevin Cuddihy: Education Law Attorney - Scarinci/Hollenbeck, LLC

Photo by Lisa Torres

ANNUAL PLANT SALE FUNDRAISER - MAY 9TH

Garden Club of Florham Park

On Saturday, May 9th, the Garden Club of Florham Park will hold their annual plant sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Community Center in Florham Park. The sale includes a variety of annuals, perennials (from member gardens), herbs, vegetables, and hanging baskets that are perfect gifts for Mother's Day.

Instead of going to big box stores, please come out and support the Garden Club. Proceeds from the sale will go

straight back to the community! The Garden Club of Florham Park sponsors monthly gardening-related programs that are open to the public, beautifies the town with the planting and maintenance of Carolyn's Garden, which is located at the Florham Park Community Center, and the landscaping at the Florham Park Municipal Pool, and donates annually to the Ridgedale Middle School Graduation Awards Program.

For more info please email the Garden Club of Florham Park at gflorhampark@gmail.com.

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Florham Park Press NJ

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Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (accomplishment, honor, award, etc.), send us your news!

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HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS SUCCESSFUL CAREER FAIR

Hanover Park High School

Our 1st Annual Career Fair was an incredible success, and we couldn't be more proud of the energy and ambition our community brought to the room.

Finding the right path starts with the right

connections, and the night was all about opening doors. From tech and trade to public service and creative arts, the future is looking bright!

A massive thank you to the incredible organizations that took the time to meet, mentor, and inspire our attendees.

OUR FEATURED PARTNERS:

- County College of Morris • County of Morris
- Garden Savings Federal Credit Union • Generant Company • Kessler Rehabilitation Centers
- Rockaway Valley Sewerage Authority • The Funplex - East Hanover • The Kubert School
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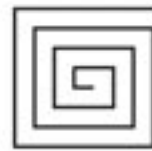


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 Garden
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MORRIS COUNTY MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE SET FOR NOON ON MAY 20

Ceremony to Honor Local Veterans and Mark Nation's 250th Anniversary

The Morris County Board of County Commissioners invites the public to attend its annual Memorial Day Observance on Court Street, between the historic Morris County Courthouse and the Administration and Records Building in Morristown.

The ceremony will begin at noon on Wednesday, May 20, and will include the presentation of Morris County Distinguished Military Service Medals to local veterans.

The event will also be livestreamed on the county's Facebook page.

In recognition of the nation's 250th anniversary, the program will also feature a special commemoration honoring Continental Army soldiers who lost their lives at Jockey Hollow.

The keynote speaker is James Ferguson, a

Vietnam veteran and Mountain Lakes resident who served on active duty in the U.S. Navy from 1963 to 1966. During his first two years of service, he was part of a small-boat amphibious fleet in the Atlantic, supporting Army and Marine Corps operations in Europe and the Caribbean. He later extended his service, volunteering as an officer aboard Swift boats in a newly established program, patrolling coastal waters and rivers in Vietnam from 1965 to 1966. Following active duty, he completed his service in the Naval Reserve in New York, attaining the rank of lieutenant.

For his service, he received the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Cuba) and the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon.

The Morris County Distinguished Military

Service Medals are unique to the county and feature the county seal encircled with the words, "Morris County Distinguished Military Service" on the front. The reverse side displays an outline of the county alongside the American flag.

The Morris County medals include a general service honor as well as honors denoting specific eras of service, including World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Each medal includes a striped ribbon representing the colors associated with the era of conflict in which the veteran served, and each veteran is additionally presented with a certificate of honor.

More than 10,000 medals have been presented to veterans or to their surviving family members since Morris County began the medal program in 1999, initially to honor WWII veterans on the 55th anniversary of the D-Day invasion.

AFGHANISTAN WAR VETERANS COMPENDIUM TO BE LAUNCHED

County of Morris

The Morris County Office of Planning & Preservation is seeking submissions for its Veterans Compendium project in advance of the 25th anniversary of the start of the War in Afghanistan on Oct. 7, 2026. Veterans who served in that conflict and their families are invited to participate by providing names and information about local service members. The project is a continuation of efforts by Morris County to document local veterans who served during conflicts dating back to the American Revolution.

Basic information requested includes the veteran's name, Morris County hometown and branch of service. Participants are encouraged to share additional details, including the names of fellow service members.

For more information or to submit biographies, please email Jan Williams, Cultural and Historic Resources Specialist of the Office of Planning & Preservation. Jan Williams may be reached at: jwilliams@co.morris.nj.us

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BROOK ART CENTER FEATURES RAGETIME & FREDDIE MERCURY IN MAY

PARAGON - MAY 3

The Paragon Ragtime Orchestra will turn the Brook Arts Center in Bound Brook back into a 1920s movie palace on Sunday, May 3rd. The 12-piece ensemble performs Charlie Chaplin's *The Gold Rush* live, with the film on the big screen and the orchestra playing the score from the pit. Showtime is 3 PM.

Paragon Ragtime Orchestra (PRO) is led by founder and conductor Rick Benjamin, who stumbled into his life's work in 1985 when he unearthed thousands of turn-of-the-century orchestra scores that had been packed away and forgotten. Since then, millions have heard the ensemble's recordings as the daily music on Main Street, U.S.A. at Disneyland, Disney World, and Disneyland Paris.

PRO and Benjamin were recently featured on Great Performances on PBS: "Now Hear This: Everyone Loves Joplin," which aired April 17 with host Scott Yoo tracing the life of ragtime's most famous composer. The Bound Brook performance brings the orchestra to New Jersey just weeks after that broadcast.

In *The Gold Rush*, Chaplin stars as the Little Tramp, a lone prospector braving the Klondike in search of fortune. Facing blizzards, hunger, and a cast of rough-and-tumble gold seekers, he relies on his wit, charm, and slapstick brilliance to survive the wilderness and win the girl.

The performance is part of the Brook's "Road

to 100," leading up to the theatre's centennial in 2027. The Brook opened in 1927, near the end of the silent era, as a vaudeville and movie house. This is exactly the kind of show it was built for. The only surviving vaudeville theatre in Somerset County, it is listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places and is run entirely by volunteers.

Sunday, May 3 at the Brook Arts Center, 10 Hamilton Street, Bound Brook. Theatre organist Ian Fraser opens with a pre-show performance at 2:30 PM; showtime is 3:00 PM. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for seniors and students. Get yours at brookart.org or call 732-469-7700.

Paragon Ragtime Orchestra concerts are sponsored in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

MERCURY - MAY 15

Terry Barber is bringing his most requested tour to NJ and is available for interview. His recording of this material was considered for 8 Grammy nominations.

May 15, The Brook Arts Center, 8pm

Internationally acclaimed performing artist, Terry Barber who moved to NJ five years ago, has just signed an agreement for his most recent project, "3 Tenors of the Americas" to headline for the World Cup (FIFA) Festival in Mexico City in July.

In the meantime he is bringing his band from

Phoenix, NYC, and Chicago to share the best selling music of all time. "Mercury" has been touring the USA and Canada and is now headed for the historic Brook Theater in Bound Brook. Barber connected with Gail Woerner and Andrew Golden who are working to restore The Brook to its previous glory days.

The show not only features the hits of QUEEN live, but also helps the audience get to know legend, Freddie Mercury as Barber shares stories about him and his actual words.

"I am not impersonating this iconic artist who taught a generation how to Rock... But I believe my audience leaves with a better sense of the man, his triumphs, and tragedies," Barber explains about his most requested tour to date. "Like Mercury, my goal with this show is to entertain, of course. He cared deeply about the audience having a great time and this show is a party for all who attend, I hope. In short, We Will Rock You," Barber shares with a chuckle.

As a past member of the multiple Grammy award-winning group Chanticleer, American countertenor, Terry Barber has been a soloist at many of the world's best venues from the Metropolitan Opera to Moscow's Svetlanov Hall. He can be heard on recordings alongside artists from Madonna, Jewel, Chaka Khan and Cyndi Lauper to the London Philharmonic. Terry's recent album and tour, the music of Freddie Mercury was considered for 8 Grammy nominations.



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Terry Barber

MERCURY

The Music & Life of
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FRIDAY, MAY 15, 8 PM




12-piece orchestra
plays to
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The Gold Rush

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NEW DIRECTOR ENERGIZES LIBRARY

Florham Park Library

Christine Brandenburg is off to a fast start as the new director of the Florham Park Library, bringing fresh energy and ushering in an expanded slate of adult programming.

Among her upcoming initiatives is a Mocktail Mixology Class scheduled for June. As part of the kickoff week for the Adult Summer Reading Program, attendees will “shake things up” while learning to make three delicious mocktails. The class is open to Florham Park Library cardholders ages 18 and older. Registration is required and will open on May 25th at 9:00 a.m.

Christine has many exciting plans in development. The library is pleased to welcome her leadership and looks forward to the contributions she will bring to the community in the months and years ahead.

For more information about the library or their programs, please visit their website florhamparklib.org, call 973-377-2694, or email reference@flo.mainlib.org



(above) Christine Brandenburg, Director, Florham Park Library

Courtesy Photo

SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

MAY MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING WEDNESDAY, MAY 13th, 2026.

The Florham Park Senior Citizens Club members meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 13th, 2026 at 11:00 a.m., at the Florham Park Community Center. We welcome Patrice Visco, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) & Tax Collector in Florham who will be talking about the municipal budget which passed on Thursday, April 17, 2026.

Our Senior Citizens monthly club meetings are held at the Florham Park Community Center located in the borough hall complex, address 111 Ridgedale Avenue, located 200 yards behind town hall. Note the Florham Park Community Center is also called the Recreation Center (large blue building). Social Time is at 10:45a.m. Lunch will be served.

MEMBER ONLY SOCIAL, MAY 27, 2026

May 27, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Our Members only Social at the Senior Center (yellow building) honoring Memorial Day with pastries and coffee, red white and blue theme. Sign up at the Senior Center by May 22, 2026.

JUNE SPRING LUNCHEON DATE (save the date)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10th, 2026

We are excited to let all Florham Park Senior Citizens know the Spring luncheon will be at the Park Savoy, 236 Ridgedale Avenue, Florham Park. For entertainment as in the past we welcome once again the fabulous Anthony Duke Claus, a singer and an actor. A member of SAG-AFTRA, he has been performing since the age of 3. His first professional roles were Off-Broadway and regional theater. His acting credits include national TV commercials, and TV appearances, including a recurring role in "One Life to Live."

Full details will be provided in the Florham Park Senior Citizens Club, April - May Newsletter.

“ART OF VALOR” AUCTION TO BENEFIT VETERANS HEALING THROUGH THE ARTS

The Morristown Club

Veterans Valor is proud to announce its upcoming fundraiser, “Art of Valor,” taking place on Thursday, May 7, 2026, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at The Morristown Club, 27 Elm Street, Morristown, NJ.

Admission: Free with RSVP.

The evening will feature a live and silent auction of over 30 original art pieces, many created by veteran artists. This event serves a dual purpose: showcasing the immense talent within the veteran community and raising critical funds to support veterans—specifically those living with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)—in finding healing and expression through artistic mediums.

"Art of Valor is more than just an auction; it's a community-driven mission to support our heroes," says the organization. "By attending, guests are directly helping veterans navigate their journey toward healing and recovery."

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Live & Silent Auction: Bidding on 30+ unique, original art pieces.
- Community Impact: 100% of proceeds go toward veteran support programs.
- Historic Venue: Held at the prestigious Morristown Club at 27 Elm Street.
- Free Admission: Entry is free of charge, though pre-registration is required due to limited capacity.

Members of the public and art enthusiasts are encouraged to register early to secure their spot. For more information or to RSVP via the official event page, please visit veteransvalornj.com.

Veterans Valor is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to supporting the veteran community through specialized programs. By focusing on creative outlets and community engagement, the organization provides veterans with the tools and support necessary to manage PTSD and successfully transition into civilian life.



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Marel Hidalgo Plays Black Jazz Composers:

Tue., May 12, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

A unique solo jazz guitar concert featuring music of some of the most important African American jazz composers of the swing, bebop, hard bop, and post-bop eras, interpreted by 17-year-old arranger, guitar, and banjo virtuoso Marel Hidalgo. Songs will include classics composed by Thelonious Monk, John Coltrane, Benny Golson, Charles Mingus, Tadd Dameron, Horace Silver, Ernest Ranglin, Mary Lou Williams, Dizzy Gillespie, Randy Weston, Joe Henderson, Duke Pearson, Fats Waller, and Billy Eckstine among others. No registration required; however, seating is first-come, first-seated.

Pre-Show Meet & Greet

with Marel Hidalgo, Jazz Guitarist:

Tue., May 12, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Teens are warmly invited to stop by for pre-show pizza and to meet Marel Hidalgo, a world-traveling, 17-year-old arranger, guitar, and banjo virtuoso. No registration needed.

For ages 13-18.

Hope One at Morris County Library:

Wed., May 27, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The mobile recovery access vehicle offers critical support for persons struggling with addiction, with the goals of preventing drug overdoses and deaths, as well as mental health services. Drop-in anytime while Hope One is here; no appointment needed.

Lunch & Learn w/ the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA):

Fri., May 29, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Discover the programs and initiatives of the Morris County (MUA). Educate yourself on best practices for recycling at home, school, or work. Get your questions answered by a trained professional. A light lunch will be served after the presentation. Registration is required and opens 5/1/26 at



(above) Marel Hidalgo

Then and Now Photo Challenge:

Submissions accepted

May 1 through June 30, 2026.

For Adults. A fun community challenge hosted by the Morris County Library in partnership with the Morris County Heritage Commission.

Participants receive a packet of ten historic archival photos of locations around Morris County, then travel to those spots to photograph what they look like today. Entries — between one and ten "now" photos — can be submitted from May 1 through June 30, 2026, and each correct photo submitted earns the participant a raffle ticket for a chance to win a \$50 gift card. For details, including contest rules, please visit: tinyurl.com

County, then travel to those spots to photograph what they look like today. Entries — between one and ten "now" photos — can be submitted from May 1 through June 30, 2026, and each correct photo submitted earns the participant a raffle ticket for a chance to win a \$50 gift card. For details, including contest rules, please visit: tinyurl.com

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Escape Room: The Spies at Arnold's Tavern:

Sat., May 16, Mon., May 18, & Tue., May 19; various time slots.

Each group will try to "escape the room" and have the opportunity to win a \$25 gift card. All ages welcome; children 12 & under must be accompanied by adult. Registration required.

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CONCERT FEATURES RENOWNED SLOVAK GUITARIST

The New Jersey Festival Orchestra (NJFO) concludes its season with One Thousand and One Nights, presented in collaboration with the Slovak American Cultural Center (S-ACC).

Showcasing international artistry and cultural exchange, the program features acclaimed Slovak guitarist Karol Samuelčík as guest soloist.

Arts in Bratislava, graduating with the institution's highest honor, the Prize of the Rector. He has performed throughout Europe, Asia, and the Americas, appearing with leading orchestras and in renowned venues including London's Purcell Room and Shenzhen Concert Hall. A prizewinner of numerous international competitions, he is also an educator at the Academy in Bratislava, a recording artist, and a respected scholar, having published a landmark work on guitar technique in 2022.

Performances will take place on Saturday, May 30, 2026 at 7:00 pm at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, and Sunday, May 31, 2026 at 2:30 pm at the Sieminski Theater in Basking Ridge.

At the heart of the program, Samuelčík brings his artistry to Joaquín Rodrigo's *Fantasia para un gentilhombre*, a work inspired by Spanish baroque dance traditions and celebrated for its elegance, lyricism, and expressive vitality.

The program culminates in Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, a cornerstone of the orchestral repertoire inspired by the legendary tales of One Thousand and One Nights. With sweeping melodies and vivid orchestral color, the work evokes a world of distant voyages, mystery, and imagination, bringing these timeless stories to life.

"The Slovak-American Cultural Center is thrilled to partner—again—with the NJFO to introduce world-renowned guitarist Karol Samuelčík to American audiences," writes S-ACC Board Member and longtime NJFO supporter Tanya Pulver. "Performing Joaquín Rodrigo's celebrated *Fantasia para un gentilhombre*, Samuelčík promises to enchant listeners, pairing the concerto's historic elegance with his signature vibrant energy and technical brilliance."

Blending international collaboration with evocative repertoire, One Thousand and One Nights offers a richly imagined and memorable close to NJFO's season.

Born in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia, Samuelčík trained at the Academy of Music and Performing

Tickets are available at njfestivalorchestra.org/concerts or by calling (908) 232-9400. Student discounts are available.

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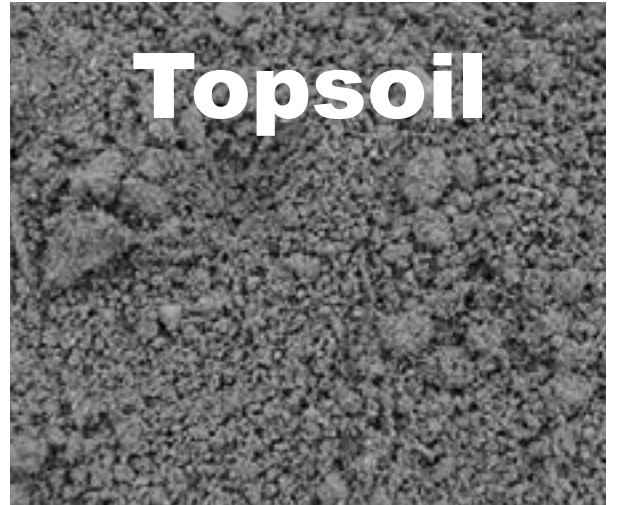
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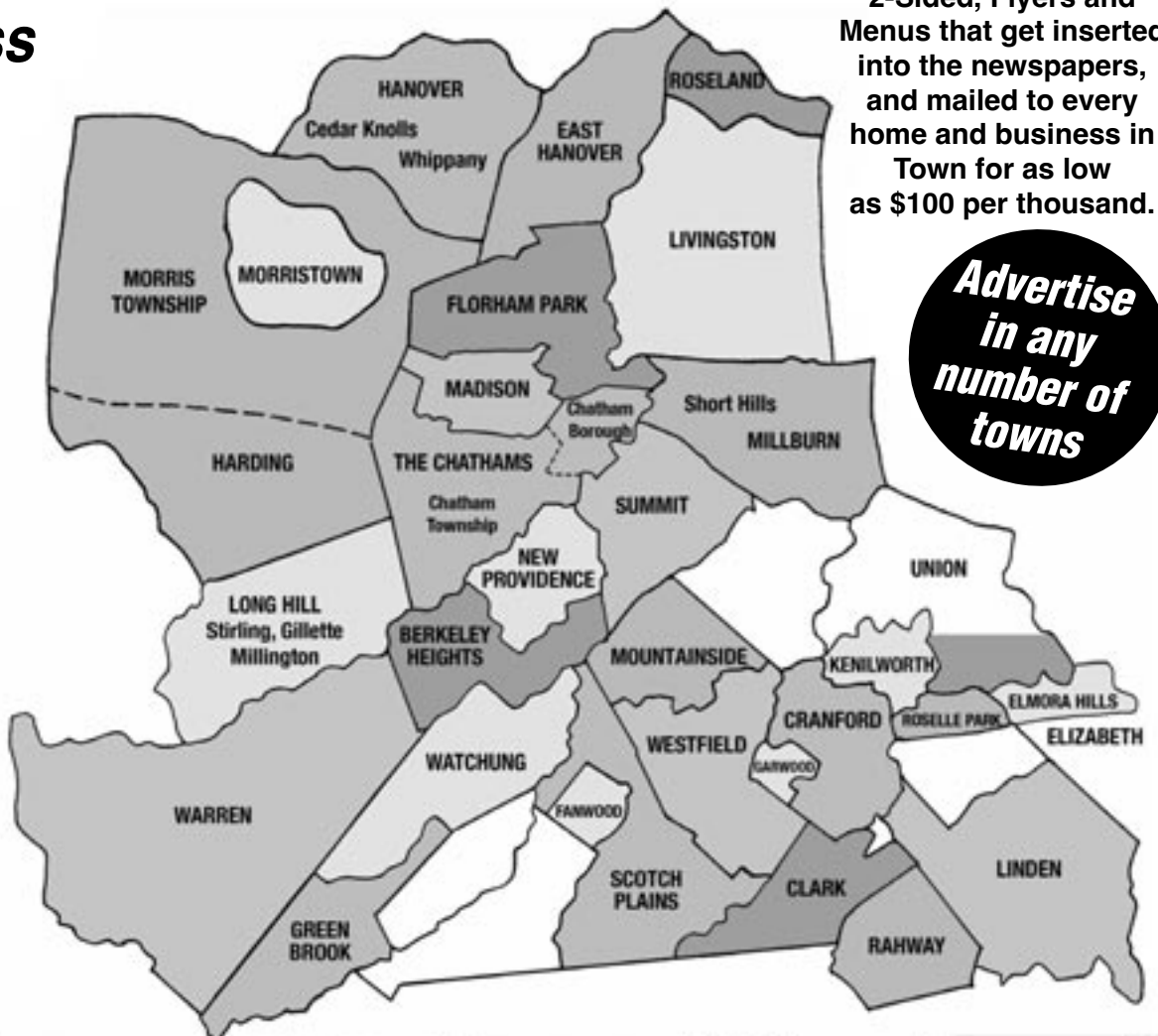
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CELEBRATE NAT'L PUBLIC GARDENS DAY – MAY 9

Macculloch Hall Historical Museum

On Saturday, May 9, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the gardens at Macculloch Hall Historical Museum will come alive with activities as the museum joins institutions nationwide in celebrating National Public Gardens Day. This free community event invites visitors of all ages to explore the beauty, history, and environmental importance of public gardens.

Founded in 2009 by the American Public Gardens Association in partnership with Rain Bird Corporation, National Public Gardens Day highlights the vital role public gardens play in education, conservation, and community engagement. Each year, participating sites offer experiences that connect people with plants, nature, and local history.

At Macculloch Hall, visitors can enjoy a lively morning of garden-inspired activities, expert insights, and special guests throughout the museum's historic grounds. Highlights include:

- A special visit from puppies in training from The Seeing Eye
- Gardening advice and demonstrations from a Rutgers Master Gardener
- An educational display from the Morristown chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Jersey
- A watercolor art activity inspired by the

garden's historic wisteria

• A hands-on vegetable bed planting activity for those interested in growing their own food
Additional displays and interactive experiences will offer opportunities to learn about gardening, native plants, wildlife conservation, and the history of the museum's two-acre garden.

Whether you are an experienced gardener, a nature enthusiast, or simply looking for a meaningful way to spend a spring morning, this celebration offers something for everyone.

Join us on May 9 to experience the beauty and impact of public gardens and discover how these green spaces continue to inspire and connect our community.

MACCULLOCH HALL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Founded in 1950, Macculloch Hall Historical Museum preserves and interprets the historic Macculloch family home, gardens, and collections—including the work of renowned political cartoonist Thomas Nast—inviting visitors to experience American history where it happened.

The Museum is open Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m., and on weekdays by appointment. Please call (973) 538-2404 or email info@maccullochhall.org to schedule a visit. The gardens are open daily, free of charge, from 8:00 a.m. to dusk. Address: 45 Macculloch Avenue, Morristown, NJ.



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MACCULLOCH HALL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

National Public GARDENS DAY





Celebrate National Public Gardens Day in MHHM's historic garden! Join us for special presentations, nature scavenger hunts, and art activities in the garden. Rain or shine.

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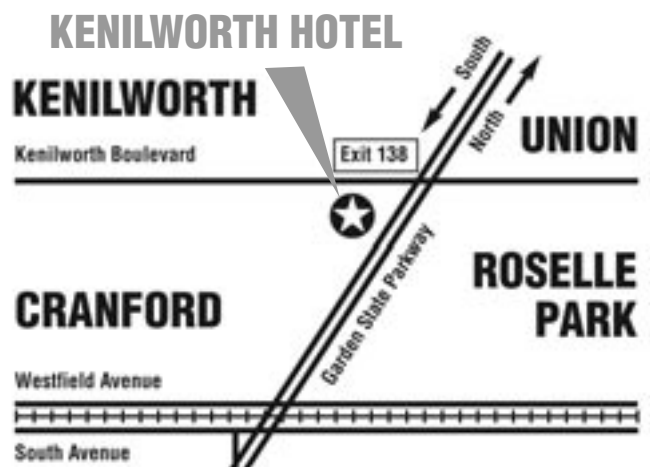


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