

New Providence NEWS

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FAITH LUTHERAN HONORED FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Faith Lutheran Church recently received honors from two organizations recognizing its ongoing work in the community.

On May 3, Peter Jacob, Executive Director of Family Promise Union County, presented Faith with the Compassionate Heart Legacy Congregation Award in recognition of outstanding effort and dedication to housing families with children. Faith is the founding congregation in the Interfaith Hospitality Network, the predecessor to Family Promise. Karen Olson, founder and former Executive Director of Family Promise, joined us in celebrating this more than four decades long partnership.

And, on May 12 at Kean University, Faith was recognized by the Union County Human Relations Commission (UCHRC) with the Unity Award for Achievement by a Faith-Based Organization. The award recognizes Faith's long-term community engagement through mission partnerships and programs that touch local, national, and global communities, as well as the church's interfaith and ecumenical work.

Pastor Jane accepted the award on behalf of the congregation, noting that "the people of Faith Lutheran Church are the hands, feet and heart of what we do." The award was further recognized with a Resolution by the Union County Board of County Commissioners and a Joint Resolution by the New Jersey State Legislature.

Faith Lutheran offers many outreach opportunities and serves regularly at St. John's Soup Kitchen and Broadway House AIDS Center, both in Newark. Other partners include Pedals for Progress, Market Street Mission in Morristown, Star Fish Interfaith Food Pantry in Plainfield, the Community Service Association of New Providence, and the Somerset County Food Bank. Faith is part of the interfaith community, hosting an Ecumenical Good Friday service, a Hanukkah Menorah Lighting with the Jewish community, and participates in an annual community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Currently a summer backpack collection for students in need of new supplies is underway.



(above) Pastor Jane recently celebrated her 12th anniversary as Faith's pastor.

Courtesy photos

To find out more about Faith Lutheran Church, visit famfaith.org or call the Church Office at 908-464-5177. Faith Lutheran is located at 524 South Street in New Providence. Worship is on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. with livestreaming available on the website, Facebook, and YouTube.

The pastor of Faith Lutheran Church is the Rev. Jane McCready who recently celebrated her 12th anniversary with the congregation. The church serves as an open and welcome place for all to worship, learn, serve, and grow together as we care for the world around us.



(above) Peter Jacob, Executive Director of Family Promise Union County, presenting Pastor Jane and members of Faith with the Compassionate Heart Legacy Congregation Award on May 3, 2026.

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New Providence NEWS

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The DeCorso Community Center, which serves as the home for the New Providence Senior Citizens Club, provides opportunities for residents to socialize, exercise, learn, and participate in programs, creative activities and community service opportunities with their peers. The Center is open Monday-Friday from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Most programs are free of charge but some may require advance registration. The New Providence Senior Citizens Club holds weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. with guest speakers, performances, or "special" bingo. For program details and a full calendar please visit newprov.us/278/Seniors or call the Center at 908-665-0046.

- Wednesday, July 1, 10:30am, **Nurse's Hours**
- Wednesday, July 1, 11:00am, **Club Meeting, Birthdays & "Songs of America"** sponsored by Oasis Senior Advisors and Caring Senior Service of Morristown
- Wednesday, July 8, 11:00am, **Club Meeting & Fall Prevention Presentation** by Dr. Schlobohm
- Friday, July 10, 10:30am,

Nurse's Hours

- Friday, July 10, 10:30am, **Breakfast before bingo** with FREE breakfast goodies provided by Spring Grove, followed by **Bingo** at 11:00am
- Wednesday, July 15, 11:00am, **Club Meeting & Brandywine "Price is Right"**
- Thursday, July 16, 10:30am, **Chess**
- Friday, July 17, 11:00am, **Take Your Grandchild to Bingo** (Please register grandchildren in advance by having their parent/guardian complete a paper waiver at the Center)
- Wednesday, July 22, 10:30am, **Nurse's Hours**
- Wednesday, July 22, 11:00am, **Club Meeting & Special Bingo**
- Thursday, July 23, **Airport Café Bus Trip** (purchase tickets in advance), bus departs DeCorso Center at 10:30am
- Tuesday, July 28, 11:00am, **Book Club** (Theo of Golden by Allen Levi)
- Wednesday, July 29, 11:00am, **Club Meeting & Staying Hydrated for Better Health** by Braven BCBS, followed by **Bingo**



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NJFO PRESENTS STRANGER THINGS: THE 1,000 CANDLES CONCERT EXPERIENCE

The New Jersey Festival Orchestra (NJFO) invites audiences to step into the world of Stranger Things this summer with Stranger Things: The 1,000 Candles Concert Experience, a one-of-a-kind candlelit event combining the excitement of live music, beloved television themes, and the unforgettable sounds of the 70s, 80s, and 90s.

Performed by a live string ensemble and narrated by Maestro David Wroe, this immersive concert experience celebrates the nostalgia and atmosphere of the hit Netflix series while showcasing iconic pop and rock classics that defined a generation. Audiences will hear music inspired by the show's haunting soundtrack alongside recognizable favorites from the decades that shaped its distinctive sound and style.

Illuminated by the warm glow of candlelight, the performance offers a unique blend of cinematic storytelling, nostalgia, and live music, creating an unforgettable evening for fans of Stranger Things, music lovers, and newcomers alike.

"This concert is designed to bring people together through music they know and love," said Maestro David Wroe. "Whether you're a

longtime fan of the series, grew up with the music of the 70s, 80s, and 90s, or are simply looking for a memorable night out, this experience offers something for everyone."

Perfect for family outings, date nights, multigenerational gatherings, and summer entertainment, Stranger Things: The 1,000 Candles Concert Experience welcomes audiences of all ages. To encourage younger attendees to experience live music, NJFO is offering \$25 student tickets for patrons age 21 and under.

The concert will be presented in three performances:

Saturday, July 25, 2026

at 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM

The Presbyterian Church Chapel

140 Mountain Avenue, Westfield, NJ

Sunday, July 26, 2026 at 2:30 PM

Sieminski Theater

8000 Fellowship Road, Basking Ridge, NJ

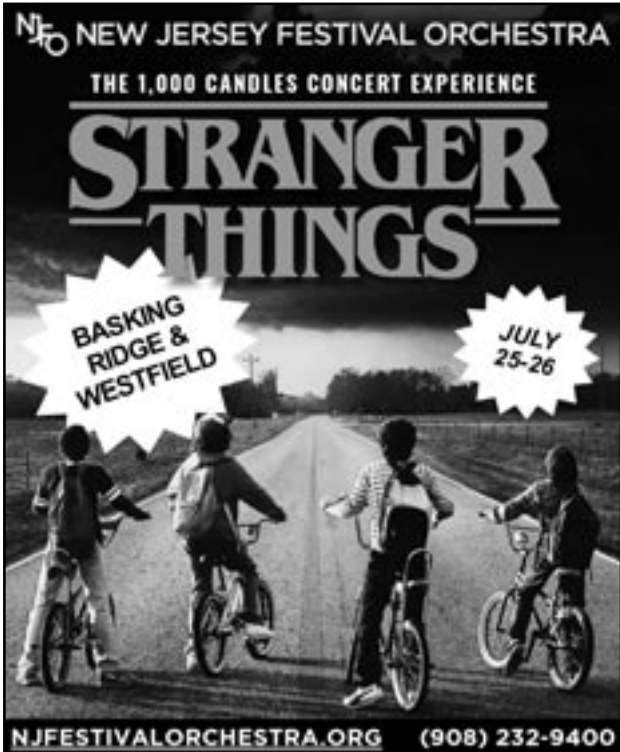
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OPERA AT FLORHAM ANNOUNCES NEW SEASON OF MUSIC AND DRAMA

Opera at Florham is delighted to unveil its 2026–2027 season, offering audiences an exciting journey through beloved Operas, festive traditions, legendary performers, and emerging vocal talent.

The season opens on **Sunday, July 19, 2026**, with a special celebration of **America's 250th Anniversary** featuring a repertoire honoring the great American Opera singers whose artistry has shaped the nation's musical heritage. Come see this special performance at The Mansion at Fairleigh Dickinson University (285 Madison Ave, Madison, NJ 07940).

On **September 13, 2026**, audiences will be transported to Paris with **La Vie en Bohème**, an engaging exploration of Puccini's beloved masterpiece and the captivating lives of four struggling artists and the women who transform their world. At The Mansion at Fairleigh Dickinson University

The magic continues on **November 8, 2026**, with **Fantasy in Opera** at **The Church of Saint Philomena in Livingston** (386 South Livingston Avenue, Livingston, NJ 07039), showcasing enchanting selections from Operas filled with wonder, imagination, and the supernatural.

The holiday season arrives on **December 6, 2026**, with the annual **Holiday Spectacular: Jingle Jingle and Mingle Mingle All the Way**, a

joyful musical celebration at St. Margaret of Scotland R.C. Church in Morristown (6 Sussex Ave, Morristown, NJ 07960). This performance is at 3:00 pm.

On **February 14, 2027**, Opera at Florham presents **Operatic Villains You Love to Hate**. A Valentine's Day program featuring some of Opera's most memorable and delightfully wicked characters. Back at our home at The Mansion at Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison, New Jersey.

The spring season continues on **April 4, 2027**, with **An Afternoon with the Šebec Tenors: A Tribute to Luciano Pavarotti**. Acclaimed tenor Christian Šebec joins his sons, Zachary and Eric, for an unforgettable afternoon celebrating the legendary tenor through Operatic favorites and family harmony. At The Mansion at Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison, New Jersey.

The season concludes on **May 23, 2027**, with

the **37th Annual International Vocal Competition in Honor of Violetta Dupont**, where audiences can experience the extraordinary talent of tomorrow's Opera stars as they compete for top honors. At The Mansion at Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison, New Jersey.

Opera at Florham invites music lovers of all ages to join us for a season filled with passion, artistry, storytelling, and unforgettable performances.

Tickets are \$35 for General Admission, with discounted tickets available for students. **Become a season sponsor for just \$180!** All 7 concerts for less than the price of 6! Over a 25% discount! Visit operaatflorham.org for tickets and more information.

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43RD ANNUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH RUN

New Providence Police Department and Office of Emergency Management

On June 5, 2026, New Providence High School students joined members of the New Providence PD and OEM, and other police departments and community members from across the state, to be

Guardians of the Flame in the 43rd Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit Special Olympics of New Jersey. Over 3,000 Police Officers took to their local streets to raise funds and awareness for this incredible organization. They carry the "Flame of Hope" which officially leads into the Special Olympics Summer Games. This event helps raise awareness and funds to support year-round sports training and competition opportunities for thousands of athletes with intellectual disabilities throughout New Jersey.

New Providence runners received the torch from the Summit Police Department, and then handed it off to the Berkeley Heights Police Department, to keep the torch going.

The runners gave a special shout out on Facebook to Salt Brook Elementary School students and staff who stood outside cheering, waving signs, and screaming at the top of their lungs, it gave the runners the ultimate energy boost.

ABOUT LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN®

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR), initiated in 1981 by Wichita Police Chief Richard LaMunyon, has grown into a worldwide movement. What began as a humble initiative has transformed into a global beacon

of hope and unity, driven by the collective efforts of law enforcement volunteers. Known as Guardians of the Flame, these dedicated individuals join hands with Special Olympics athletes to champion the cause of acceptance and inclusion for individuals with intellectual disabilities. The essence of LETR lies in its community-centric approach. Law enforcement members from various levels, including federal, national, state, provincial, local, and even military sectors, come together to support this noble cause. Their collaboration extends beyond mere participation; it signifies a commitment to fostering a society where everyone, irrespective of their abilities, is embraced and celebrated.



Courtesy Photo

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LOCAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Summit College Club Foundation

The Summit College Club Foundation marked the close of its 2025–2026 year by honoring six exceptional high school senior women from Summit and surrounding communities at its annual scholarship reception. Held on Sunday, June 7th, in Memorial Hall of St. Teresa of Avila Church in Summit, the Foundation awarded nearly \$30,000 in scholarships. This year's awardees, chosen from a highly competitive, record-breaking pool of applicants who are graduating from one of eight local high schools in Berkeley Heights, Chatham, Millburn, Mountainside, New Providence, Springfield, and Summit will attend four-year colleges and

universities in the fall to further pursue their academic and future career interests.

The Summit College Club Foundation scholarship recipients were chosen for their outstanding academic performance, exceptional leadership qualities, and significant contributions to their communities. This year's scholarship awardees were Lillian Arts from Governor Livingston High School, Julia Gumney from Summit High School, Abigail Han from Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child, Jungmin Allison Kim from Summit High School, Anna Rice from Chatham High School, and Bella Pires Silva from Jonathon Dayton High School.

In addition to their stellar academic records, these young women had amassed an extraordinary range of achievements both at school and in their communities. Among them were AP Scholars, a Wakeman Scholar, a Scholastic Writing Award winner, and several who had conducted research at the university level. They also included captains of varsity sports teams, leaders of school clubs and student government, founders and fundraisers for community organizations, EMT's and hospital volunteers, as well as extraordinarily talented dancers and musicians. The Summit College Club is proud to honor them with scholarships and looks forward to following their continued success in the years ahead.

The awards ceremony commenced with Summit College Club co-Presidents Hedy Tucky and Karen Kaplan welcoming guests and offering a brief history of the Club.

The ceremony also featured reflections from

2025 scholarship recipient Samantha Rose, who just completed her freshman year at Duke University. Samantha spoke about her college experiences and how the scholarship she'd received made it possible to pursue her dream of medical research and opened opportunities that might otherwise have been out of reach.

Emma Vachal, a 2025 scholarship recipient currently attending Brown University, sent a message about her recent experience at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, which she attended with support from the Summit College Club. In her message, Emma expressed her gratitude to the organization for the opportunity to attend the conference. She highlighted the valuable insights she'd gained from the conference workshops and activities, which focused on building and enhancing leadership skills.

The Summit College Club Foundation's scholarship program reflects the Summit College Club's longstanding mission of advancing equity for women and girls by helping to cover a portion of their college costs. Since the Club's inception in 1920, it has awarded more than \$1.1 million in scholarship funds, an enduring legacy of investing in the future of talented young women.

Summit College Club is a branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), an organization that promotes equity for women and girls through education, research, and advocacy. For more information about the Summit College Club, visit us on Facebook, on the web at summitcollegeclub.org, or reach us by email at summitcollegeclub@gmail.com.



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(above, l-r) The Summit College Club Foundation awarded nearly \$30,000 in scholarships during the reception. Scholarship recipients were Bella Pires Silva, Lillian Arts, Julia Gumny, Anna Rice, and Jungmin Allison Kim. (Abigail Han is not pictured).

Courtesy Photo

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GLP-1 FAILED THIS NEW PROVIDENCE MOM...BUT THEN SHE DROPPED 80 POUNDS AND RAN HER FIRST 5K.

There's something nobody tells you when you start GLP-1. The medication can help you eat less. It can move the scale. For a lot of people, it's a genuine tool that opens a door that felt permanently closed.

But it can also quietly take something you can't afford to lose. Research shows that for many people, 25 to 40 percent of the weight lost on a GLP-1 isn't fat at all — it's muscle. The very tissue that keeps you strong, steady on your feet, and independent as you age.

So here's what Cristina Montero learned the hard way:

The medication is not the transformation. It's just the beginning of one — if you do the other parts right.

Cristina is 52, a mom from New Providence, and she's down nearly 80 pounds. Her inflammation markers (the culprit for almost every disease) are finally normal. She runs, carries five-gallon water jugs up the stairs and crossed the finish line of her first 5K without walking a single step.

But she'll be the first to tell you: the shot alone didn't do that.

This is her story... and if you're over 40 and currently taking GLP-1, or thinking about it, it may be the most important thing you read this year.

GLP-1 WASN'T ENOUGH ON ITS OWN

Before she started this journey, Cristina was ashamed... and she hid under her clothes.

"I knew how I felt and looked was my fault but I needed help," she said. "I always had an excuse for why I couldn't walk, exercise, or take the stairs. I felt tired and achy often. My doctors would tell me to lose weight and I'd say sure, I'm trying — but never really started. I functioned, yes. But I never realized how much my body missed feeling really great."

The frustrations ran deep. Looking in the mirror and hating how her clothes fit. Her chest size felt unmanageable, leading to upper back pain every single day. After gaining close to 100 pounds during her son's pregnancy, her health had taken a serious turn — arthritis in her knees, autoimmune issues, hypertension, and chronic inflammation that no medication seemed to touch.

"My energy — well, if I was in the middle of the mall and they only had stairs, I'd look for an elevator or just sit and wait," she said. "I was so out of shape for the last 25 years. Always tired, almost every morning waking up with a new pain."

There were moments that were quietly humiliating — the ones she didn't talk about much. If something fell on the floor, she had to ask her kids or husband to pick it up because kneeling caused excruciating knee pain. There were times her back spasms were so severe she got stuck on the floor.

She tried everything. The 3-day tuna diet. Nutrisystem. A staple in her ear. Atkins. Weight Watchers. Paleo. Gluten-free. 21 Day Fix. Factor. Orangetheory. Private trainers. Get In Shape Women. Zumba. Some of them worked temporarily. None of them lasted.

"I was successful in some of them but it never lasted," she said. "I'd start to lose a little weight, then go back to normal habits — and always gain it back and more."

Then came GLP-1.

The first time she tried it, she thought the injection alone would do the work. No meaningful diet changes. No exercise. Just the medication.

"That failed miserably," she said plainly. "Injecting and continuing to eat normal junk didn't move the scale like I expected. It only made me feel sick."

She stopped GLP-1. A few months later she tried again... this time with a completely different mindset. This time, she was mentally ready to include something she'd always avoided: A fitness program with people that knew what they heck they were doing.

THE CONVERSATION THAT CHANGED THE PLAN

Cristina's son, Andres, had been talking to her for years about what lasting change actually requires. When Cristina restarted her GLP-1 journey he helped her understand something that most people on the medication never hear: the drug can reduce your appetite and help with weight loss, but without weight training, a significant portion of what you lose won't be fat — it'll be muscle. As much as 25 to 40 percent of it, according to the research.

And muscle isn't just about looking toned. It's the tissue that protects your bones, keeps you strong, and decides whether the next twenty years of your life are spent independent or needing help. Lose muscle and everything gets harder. Your metabolism slows. You feel weak.

"My son opened my eyes to incorporate weight training and cardio," she said. "That was the piece I'd always been missing."

NOT THIS



THIS



That's when she walked into Gabriele Fitness, a small personal training gym in Berkeley Heights that had a 19 year stellar reputation for helping adults over 40 get in the best shape of their lives. As trainers that always stay on the cutting edge... they knew exactly how to help someone taking GLP-1 maximize their results.

WALKING INTO GABRIELE FITNESS FOR THE FIRST TIME

She arrived embarrassed, scared but quietly hopeful.

Like many adults over 40 she was afraid of making her knee pain even worse and was convinced she wouldn't be able to do most of the exercises. And after years of fitness programs that hadn't worked, she was bracing herself to be disappointed again.

What she found was something different than anything she'd experienced before.

She started two days a week. The coaches didn't hand her a generic program and wish her luck. When her knee barked, they modified it. When her back felt it, they adjusted in real time — often before she said a word...because they were watching her face, her movement, the subtle signals her body was sending. And every session was building the one thing the medication couldn't give her back: strength.

"They know when to push and how much," she said. "They recognize when it's an off day and work with me to keep me moving. No more excuses."

For the first time in 25 years of trying, she didn't feel lost in a gym and instead was filled with hope.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GLP 1 AND PERSONAL TRAINING WORK TOGETHER

Once the training clicked alongside everything else, the results that had been stalled for months began to move — and they didn't stop.

Nearly 80 pounds gone. Inflammation markers, elevated for over a decade despite multiple medications, are finally normal. Her doctors, who had been telling her for years to lose weight, are looking at her bloodwork with something close to disbelief.

"Years of taking so many meds could have been avoided with a prescription to a gym with a great group of caring personal trainers"

But the numbers only tell part of the story.

"My clothes fit better and I actually don't hide under them anymore," she said. "I've lost inches throughout my entire body. Occasionally when I'm with my husband and kids, I love showing them how I notice a muscle — how my quads are actually forming. It truly is amazing. It's a change I never thought I'd see."

She's simply a happier person. After she posted a picture recently, a friend reached out to congratulate her for looking so happy and confident — and then told her she'd motivated her to start as well.

"I feel more confident in my clothes and in my own persona," Cristina said. When people see me in person, they tell me I look like a completely different person. A happy and confident woman."

She can kneel now without pain. The woman who used to ask her kids to pick things up off the floor because she couldn't bend down now carries five-gallon water jugs in each hand up the stairs. She hops into her husband's truck without struggling. She wears three-inch stiletto heels. She walks into any store she wants and does a celebration dance in the fitting room when things fit.

These aren't just cosmetic wins. They're the quiet markers of a body that's going to stay strong and independent for decades — getting off the floor on your own, carrying the load, catching

yourself when you stumble. That's what muscle buys you, and it's the one thing no injection can.

And this past September, she stood at the starting line of a 5K, knowing she never had run that far in her life. She was nervous and worried she wouldn't make it.

She crushed it, and didn't stop once. Not even on the hill.

"Crossing that finish line without stopping was one of the proudest moments of my life," she said

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM CRISTINA TO ANYONE ON GLP-1 — OR THINKING ABOUT IT

"GLP-1 is a tool. But it's not the secret fix the media is making it out to be. I learned that the hard way the first time around. The gym — real coaching, real structure, real accountability — is what made everything actually work.

I'm not getting any younger, and I want to live long enough to see my grandkids. Most importantly, I don't want to be a burden to anyone. That's what finally got me serious.

Get Started before you feel ready. You don't need to know what you're doing or get in shape on your own BEFORE you hire a trainer... that's what they're for. Just show up and the right gym will take it from there. For me, it's Gabriele Fitness and that one decision changed everything for me. You'll start to feel better than you have in years. Slow and steady works, if you stay consistent.

We all start nervous. Stop waiting for the perfect time and just get up and start."

For Those Who See Themselves... or are worried about someone that would resonate with Cristina's Story — Read This:

Gabriele Fitness has opened 13 spots for local residents to experience their personal training program FREE for 14 days. You'll get 14 days to experience what Cristina found when the missing piece finally clicked into place.

This offer expires soon and is limited to 13 people. To get the full details and see if any spots are still available, scan below or call 908-464-4441



Scan the code or go to refer.gabrielefitness.com/cristina or Call us at (908) 293-9666

P.S. Many people reading this article will be inspired by Cristina yet still feel hesitant to try the program. With anything new, there's always uncertainty — especially with something like a new fitness routine. But if you're not working out right now, or you've been inconsistent (like most people) you've read the exact article you needed to read today because...

Gabriele Fitness has helped thousands of people in this community over the past 19 years. For some, the program has had a life-changing effect, and many members have stayed for nearly two decades.

A large number of them are now in the best shape of their lives (...and 2 decades older) — but they all started in the same place as anyone reading this and considering starting their fitness journey. Because living longer only matters if you stay strong enough to enjoy it.

If you're still hesitant, the link below shares an ocean of success stories from people just like you... who've transformed their lives... and in some cases, the lives of everyone in their family. This is powerful stuff.

<https://gabrielefitness.com/results/>

To get the full details about the Free Personal Training Program and to see if any of the 13 spots are still available scan below...



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Michael D Boll, NJVN President

The New Jersey Veterans Network is a mobile outreach team dedicated to aggressively seeking out veterans in need and providing life-saving resources. Our charity exists for one reason: to save lives and help veterans live a better way of life. We are always looking for volunteers.

Since 2017, we have built a highly capable team that has helped thousands of veterans and their family members across New Jersey.

OUR IMPACT INCLUDES:

- Donating 60+ refurbished vehicles to veterans in need
- Feeding thousands of veterans and active military members
- Distributing clothing, personal items, and medical equipment
- Visiting veterans hospitals and shelters weekly
- Assisting with housing, VA claims, and critical resources
- Most importantly, we save lives through our mobile outreach and recreational therapy programs.

Our success is made possible by incredible volunteers and partnerships with like-minded charities that share our mission.

We are honored to work alongside people who are truly passionate about serving veterans.

If you'd like to volunteer, please contact us:
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Phone: (973) 332-1556.

To learn more visit njvn.org.

Together, we can continue saving lives and serving those who served us.



Courtesy Photo

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PASSING THE TORCH AT 250: HOW NORTH JERSEY'S NEWEST ENLISTEES CARRY AMERICA'S LEGACY FORWARD

*Martha Papson Garcia, Ed.D. (U.S. Army)
Director of Veterans Services, ROTC Liaison,
Fairleigh Dickinson University*

Veteran organizations often serve as the backbone of community support for those who have served in the military. Yet, one group is uniquely transforming how America honors its newest service members—before they even don the uniform. While traditional groups like the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the American Legion focus primarily on veterans returning from conflict, Our Community Salutes (OCS) dedicates its mission entirely to the next generation of patriots: high school seniors stepping into the U.S. Armed Forces.

As communities across the nation prepared for Fourth of July celebrations and looked forward to America's milestone 250th birthday, the work of Our Community Salutes of North Jersey stood as a powerful reminder of what local support truly meant.

Founded in 2009 by educator and Army veteran Dr. Kenneth Hartman, OCS was created to fill an important gap in community recognition. While college-bound seniors receive enthusiastic decision-day applause and student-athletes draw local headlines for signing with sports teams, military enlistees often quietly slip away to basic training without public acknowledgment. Our Community Salutes ensures these young men and women are the first to hear a collective "thank you" from their hometown.

The organization operates on a three-pronged

support model. For enlistees, public recognition ceremonies provide resources, mentorship, and a sense of pride to ease their transition into active duty. For families, educational tools, community connections, and peer networks that help parents and siblings navigate the military journey. For communities, a collaborative platform uniting local business leaders, veterans, educators, and elected officials to honor local defenders.

Each spring, the North Jersey chapter of OCS brings this essential mission into focus. Recently, the group hosted its 10th Annual Enlistee Recognition Ceremony at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Florham Campus in Madison, New Jersey.

At this high-profile event, more than 90 high school seniors from across northern New Jersey were honored as they committed to enlist in the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, or National Guard. Surrounded by active-duty military leaders, veterans, local dignitaries, and emotional families, these young patriots received a formal send-off recognizing their induction into the elite "less than 1% club" of Americans who wear the uniform. To further support families, OCS introduced programs like OCS Connect, designed specifically to build community for those at home during their loved ones' military journey.

As America approaches its Semiquincentennial—its 250th birthday—the thread connecting these North Jersey enlistees, today's veterans, and the original patriots of the

Revolutionary War becomes profound. It is an unbroken chain of everyday citizens choosing extraordinary sacrifice.

In 1776, the Continental Army was built by farmers, blacksmiths, and tradesmen who swapped civilian tools for muskets to defend the ideal of freedom. Many marched through northern New Jersey, known as the "Crossroads of the Revolution," enduring hardships such as brutal winters in Morris and Bergen counties. Today's veterans have inherited the responsibility of maintaining peace through decades of global conflict. Now, these high school enlistees—stepping onto the same historic Jersey soil—carry forward that legacy by voluntarily safeguarding American liberty. Just as only about 3% of colonists fought for independence, today's service members represent a committed minority protecting the majority.

Many historical battles that were won long ago are celebrated on the Fourth of July. But organizations like Our Community Salutes remind us that freedom is an active, ongoing relay race. By honoring the new generation of military enlistees, OCS ensures that the legacy of American liberty remains vibrant.

The act of honoring veterans isn't just about looking back - it is an investment in the future of the nation. Through grassroots support and community recognition, these young patriots receive a powerful message: their sacrifice is valued, their service is celebrated, and their legacy is America's ongoing story.



(above) Our Community Salutes of North Jersey 2026, High School Enlistees

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Documentary: Flag Day

July 2 at 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm

Set in Three Oaks, Michigan, home to the nation's largest Flag Day parade, this newly released documentary film is a portrait of ritual, identity, and belonging in an era of deep political division, a portrait that holds both the good and the hard truths of being American.

Teen Dungeons & Dragons

July 6, 7 & 9 at 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm

Come play Dungeons & Dragons at the library! All materials will be provided - just bring your imagination! Register online.

Knit Night/ Stay & Crochet

July 6, 16 at 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Bring your knitting or crochet work-in-progress to this stitching meetup.

Movie Matinee: Sinners

July 7 at 1:00 pm to 3:15 pm

Trying to leave their troubled lives behind, twin brothers (both played by Michael B. Jordan, who won Best Actor for his roles) return to their hometown in the Jim Crow South, only to discover an even greater evil: vampires. This R-rated horror film from 2025 features toe-tapping music.

Virtual Author Talk Inherited Family Trauma

July 7 at 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

An online interview with therapy expert Mark Wolynn, author of *It Didn't Start with You*, sharing evidence that the roots of our anxiety, phobias, and chronic pain may lie with our parents & grandparents.

Evening Book Club

July 9 at 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm

We'll discuss *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters. In 1962, an Indigenous Mi'kmaq family comes to Maine to pick blueberries when their youngest disappears. Copies at the front desk.

Board Games at the Brewery

July 9 at 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Buy a drink at United Brewing (140 Spring St) and Mark and Elizabeth will teach you this month's board game, or you can bring your own to play. Ages 21+

Sound Meditation

July 11 at 2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Led by Kathy Martin, a practitioner experienced in Himalayan singing bowls and other meditative instruments. Bring your own mat (optional: blanket, pillow) The hypnotic rhythm and sound will balance and relax you. Register online.

Mahjong Open Play

July 13, 20 at 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

July 14, 21, 27 at 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Open play for those who already know how to play mahjong. Please bring your own mahjong set. If you'd like email reminders, please register online.

Teens Teaching: Chemistry

July 13 at 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Learn about chemical reactions from a high school student, for students entering grades 4-7.

Batter Up: Let's Talk Baseball

July 13 at 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Discuss teams, players, and other issues of the sport with other fans who have been called smart and enthusiastic by guest speakers.

Books & Bagels

July 14 at 10:30 am to 11:30 am

A book club with no assigned reading! Join us in the Conti Room for a bagel from Bagel Cafe and tell us what you've enjoyed reading. We take turns talking about our books.

Virtual Author Talk Karin Slaughter

July 14 at 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

An online interview with bestselling author Karin Slaughter about the newest entry in her suspenseful North Falls series, which is set in rural Georgia. Register online for the link to the livestream/recording.

Teens Teaching: Environmental Science

July 13 at 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Learn about cellular respiration from a high school student, for students entering grades 4-7.

Author Reyna Grande

July 16 at 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

An online interview with bestselling author Reyna Grande about her new memoir, *Migrant Heart: Essays About Things I Can't Forget*, illuminating the hidden cost of the American Dream and the complex journey of healing that follows survival. Register online for the link to the livestream/recording.

Diamond Painting Bookmarks

July 20 at 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Join us for an evening of pizza and diamond painting. Each teen will make their own bookmark. Register online.

Paint a Pet Portrait

July 18 at 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Learn how to paint a colorful portrait of a pet. We'll paint blocks of color for the background (this goes inside a picture frame, then you'll trace your pet's face onto the front of the frame. You'll need a 8.5x11" printout of your pet's face. Registration is required. Teens and adults.

Morning Book Club

July 21 at 10:30 am to 11:30 am

The club will discuss *Hula* by Jasmin Iolani Hakes. Set in Hilo, Hawai'i, this is a sweeping family saga that unfolds through the lives of three generations of women. Copies at the front desk

Movie Matinee: 1776

July 21 at 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

1776 is the 1972 film version of the musical comedy, directed by Peter Hunt. In the days leading up to July 4, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin coerce Thomas Jefferson into writing the Declaration of Independence as they try to persuade the colonies to support independence.

Blood Drive

July 23 at 12:30 pm to 6:30 pm

NJ Blood Services will host a blood drive in the Conti Room. Walk ins are welcome, or schedule an appointment online.

Silent Book Club

July 27 at 7:00 pm to 7:50 pm

BYO Book. We read together in quiet camaraderie in the library armchairs.

Between Two Worlds:

Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles

July 28 at 1:00 pm to 2:45 pm

A documentary that chronicles the story of the musical *Fiddler On The Roof*, exploring the richness of its themes and its long reach across time and cultures.

Haunting Chapters Book Club

July 28 at 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

The horror book club will read *Don't Look Now* by Daphne Du Maurier. Full of bone-chilling tales, this short story collection includes "The Birds," the basis for the Alfred Hitchcock film of the same title, and other creepy classics.



(above) Theresa Lombardi Magistro recently visited the library to donate a copy of her book, "Antonetta: an Immigrant's Story,"

Courtesy Photo

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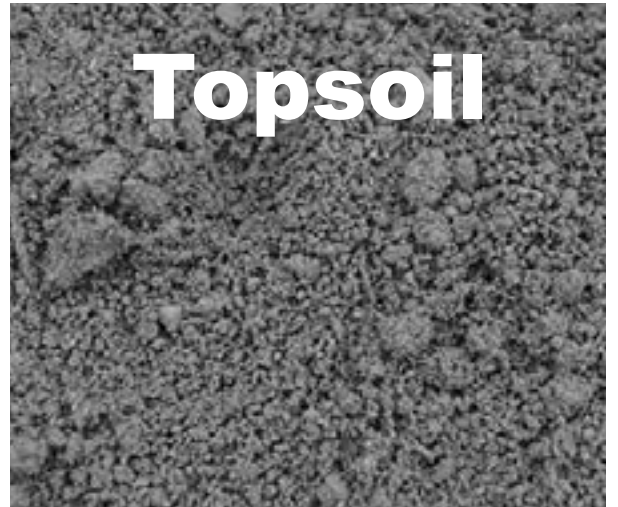
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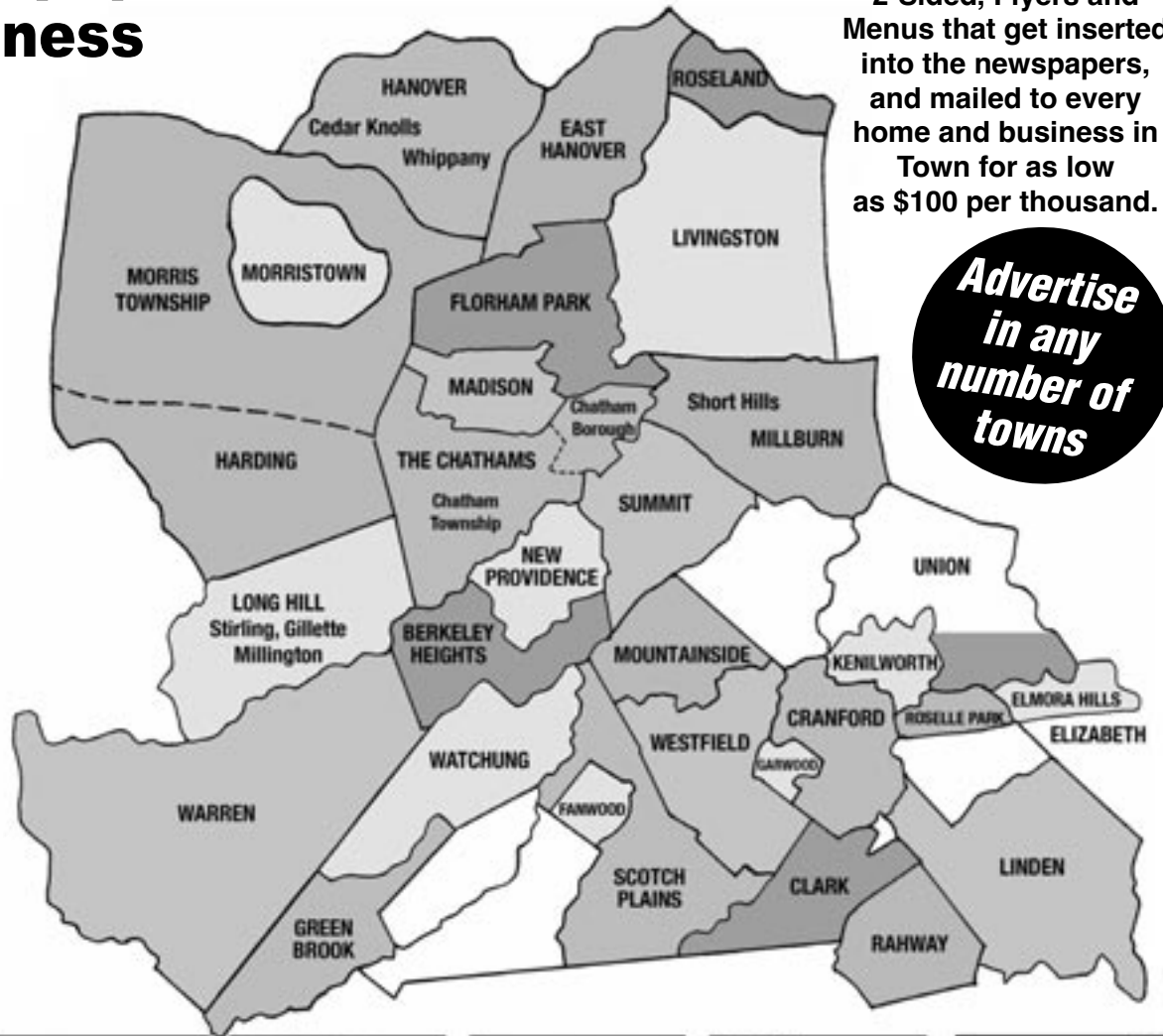
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Division of My Handyman & Painter LLC • 100 Walnut Ave. Suite 210, Clark NJ

- ✓ **WE GRIND YOUR FLOORS. THE PROPER START.**
- ✓ **WE USE SLOW CURING 2 PART EPOXY & NOT POLYUREA SO IT PENETRATES THE CONCRETE. THIS STOPS WATER PENETRATION FROM UNDER THE FLOOR. NO BUBBLING OR BLISTERING**
- ✓ **CHOICE OF 16 DIFFERENT DECORATIVE CHIPS.**
- ✓ **SLOW CURING POLYASPARTIC UV STABLE TOP COAT. HOT TIRES WILL NOT PEEL THE TOP COAT.**
- ✓ **WE TAKE OUR TIME AND DO THE JOB PROPERLY. ONCE ONLY.**

**CHAMPAGNE
WORK AT
BEER PRICES!**



Financing Available

A Portion of sales goes to support animal rescues.

MY HANDYMAN & PAINTER LLC

QUALITY HOME IMPROVEMENTS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES

- Vinyl Plank & Tile Flooring Installed
- Kitchen & Bathroom
- Sheetrock, Install & Repair
- Painting, Electric & Plumbing
- Windows, Siding & Masonry
- Basement Finishing & Waterproofing

**General
Handyman
Services**

View our Google Reviews.



732-331-9572

www.MyHandymanAndPainter.com



**Duke says
"Adopt,
Don't
Shop."**

**Pet friendly
- We support
animal rescues**

Licensed & Insured
License #13VH11554200



SUMMER SPECIAL: DECKS
Designed • Built • Repaired • Stained

INDOOR REMODELLING
FREE ESTIMATES!

KITCHEN UPDATING
BATHROOM RENOVATIONS
SHEETROCK, PAINTING
CROWN MOLDING, DOORS

NO UP CHARGE FOR USING CREDIT CARD

MY HANDYMAN & PAINTER LLC., 100 WALNUT AVE, SUITE 210, CLARK NJ 07066

ESTATES ROADSHOW BUYING EVENTS

Gold Is At An All Time High NOW IS THE TIME TO SELL

GOLD EXCEEDS \$4,000 PER OUNCE!!!



BUYING ALL GOLD

- Gold Necklaces
- Gold Earrings
- Gold Rings
- Gold Bracelets
- Gold Pendants
- Gold Charms
- Gold Watches

BUYING ALL COINS

- Gold Coins
- Gold Eagles
- Proof Sets
- Kreugerrands
- Buffalos
- US Silver Coins Pre-64
- Morgan/Peace Dollars

BUYING ALL STERLING SILVER

- Silverware
- Trays
- 925 Jewelry
- All Sterling Silver

WATCHES

- Rolex
- Cartier
- Patek Philippe
- Pocket Watches

BUYING ALL DIAMONDS

- Wedding Rings
- Loose Diamonds
- Diamond Jewelry
- Engagement Rings

EstatesRoadshow.com

**ADD 20%
TOWARD YOUR SALE
WITH THIS COUPON!**

* Limit 1 Per Customer. Visit us at a show with this coupon for more details. This Coupon must be presented at the start of the transaction. Other restrictions may apply. All prices subject to market fluctuation. Offers Subject to Condition & Presentation. Please Bring All Appropriate Boxes & Paper Work.



*Highest
Cash Offer
on the Spot!*

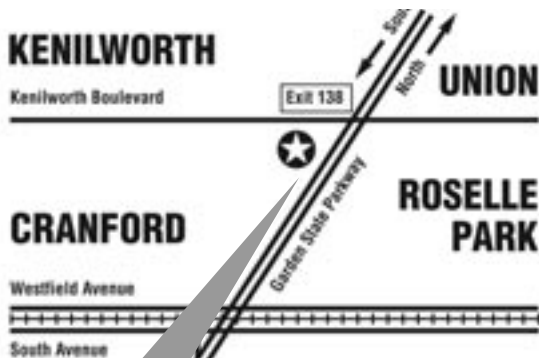
*Don't Miss Out!
We Pay the Most!
Instant Verbal Quotes!*

FOUR WEEKS IN THREE LOCATIONS IN JULY

**June 29 thru July 3
July 27 thru July 31
CLARK HOLIDAY INN**

36 Valley Rd, Clark, NJ 07066

10am to 5pm



KENILWORTH HOTEL

**July 6 thru July 10
July 20 thru July 24
KENILWORTH HOTEL**

60 S 31st St, Kenilworth, NJ 07033

10am to 5pm



CLARK HOLIDAY INN

**June 20 thru July 24
EMBASSY SUITES
by HILTON PARSIPPANY**

909 Parsippany Blvd, Parsippany, NJ 07054

10am to 5pm



EMBASSY SUITES

No Appointment Necessary. • FREE Appraisals • FREE Admission

Speak to the company's owner: Marshall Smoller: 609-781-6559