

ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY

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26TH ANNUAL FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY

The Church of the Assumption's annual St. Anthony Italian Feast was held on Thursday, June 4 thru Sunday, June 7, 2026. Huge crowds enjoyed beautiful spring weather and all the feast had to offer. The Feast, with the help of many volunteers, featured rides, games, live entertainment, homemade cooking, food vendors, a beer and wine garden and a super 50/50 drawing. Following a 12 noon Mass on Sunday, a procession was held through the streets of Roselle Park with the statue of St. Anthony of Padua.



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C.A.R. PROJECT SUPPORTS EQUINE THERAPY FOR VETS

Submitted by Holly Dunbar

The Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) is the nation's oldest and largest nonpolitical patriotic youth organization. A new C.A.R. state project that will aid veterans has been announced. The goal of "Operation Horse" is to raise \$2,000 during the next year to fund equine-assisted therapy for two N.J. veterans



(above) The Man o' War Project has helped to develop a standardized protocol for delivering equine-assisted therapy to treat PTSD.

Courtesy photos

with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The therapy is offered through the Man o' War Project of Columbia University Irving Medical Center.

The mission of the Man o' War Project is two-fold. Equine-assisted therapy is used to treat veterans with PTSD while medical staff evaluate the program to develop best practices for administering equine-assisted therapy. This research can have far-reaching benefits for treating veterans and all who suffer with PTSD.

C.A.R. membership is open to girls and boys from birth through age 21 who are descended from a person who aided the cause of independence during the American Revolution.

New Jersey has nine C.A.R. groups known as societies. Activities offered on an age-appropriate basis help members learn about American history, government, community service and more. Members also gain valuable leadership experience conducting meetings and serving as delegates at state and national conferences.

Pis-Cat-A-Qua Society C.A.R., hosted by the Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Green Brook, is seeking new members. For more information,

contact ESCchapterDAR@gmail.com or visit nscar.org.



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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.

Founded in 1982, **Opera at Florham** is northern New Jersey's premier Opera company, presenting annual concerts, the International Vocal Competition, and Opera Talk educational series.



Opera at Florham Celebrates America's 250th Anniversary

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026
2:00 PM
FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY
THE MANSION, MADISON, NJ

\$35 GENERAL ADMISSION



Tickets & Information
operaatflorham.org
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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

Seating is limited and advance ticket purchases are strongly recommended.

For tickets and additional information, visit www.njfestivalorchestra.org or call (908) 232-9400.

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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

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

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CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

(Ages 0-11)

SUMMER SPLASH SERIES

TUESDAYS 7/14-7/28 @ 11 AM

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AGES 5-11 (Weather permitting)

BOOKS, BUBBLES & SUNSHINE

WEDNESDAYS @ 11 AM)

Bring a blanket and towel and join Miss Faith on the lawn for a morning of stories and outdoor fun! Feel free to bring a snack (to be enjoyed outdoors only). Stay after story time for bubbles, sidewalk chalk, and water play!

AGES 0-5 (Weather permitting)

Campfire story time

thursday 7/9 @ 11 am

Join us for stories around the "campfire," then learn basic camp skills and make your own's mores mix! Online registration required.

AGES 3-11

FAIRY TALE DETECTIVES

THURSDAY 7/23 @ 11 AM

Step into a mystery! Race against the clock as fairy tale detectives, solving riddles, cracking clues, and completing challenges hidden throughout. Work together, think fast, and unlock the fairy tale mystery. Online registration required. Online registration is required. AGES: 5-12

Story & Snack: Sari-Sari Summer

THURSDAY 7/30 @11 AM

Join us as we read Sari-Sari Summer and enjoy a fun mango ice candy demonstration inspired by the story! We'll listen to the book, watch the snack being made, and then enjoy a sweet frozen treat together.

FAMILY EVENTS

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AGES 0-5. Sign up for 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten. Read books and collect prizes! Sign ups are ongoing, drop in any time to sign up. Roselle Park residents only.

*America 250:

Letters of Gratitude Family Night

MONDAY 7/6@ 6 PM

Join us at the library for a creative evening of gratitude as we celebrate America 250. Families will enjoy snacks and write and decorate heartfelt letters of appreciation to honor military service members. All letters will be collected and mailed to those who serve. Online registration required.

CONCERT ON THE LAWN

THURSDAY, JULY 9th 6:00PM

Join us to see our very own Lisa and her band, Blue Tuesday, perform covers of hit songs we all know and love.

Family Game Night

Monday 7/13 @ 6:00 PM

Drop in for family game night featuring a selection of board games for all ages. Families are invited to play together, try different games, and enjoy a relaxed evening of friendly competition and connection.

BOOKS & BEYOND A LIFT

THURSDAY 7/16 @ 11 AM

Family Literacy Event Join us for a one-hour program designed for families with children ages 0-3. Explore a variety of literacy-based activity stations where caregivers and children can participate together in early literacy experiences. Registration required.

Family Lego Club

Monday 7/20 @6:00 PM

Ready, set, build! With our bricks and your imagination, the possibilities are endless. Bring your family and friends and get ready to create something amazing together.

Family Dinner & A Movie

Monday 7/27 @ 6:00pm

Enjoy a fun summer evening with family, pizza, and a movie on our big screen! Relax together and take in a family film in a welcoming community setting. Online registration required. For the enjoyment of all, this program is best suited for families with children who can comfortably enjoy a full-length film. Remember to register for Summer Reading and track your reading minutes all summer long!

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THURS. 7/2 @ 3:00PM

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TWEEN BINGO

TUES. 7/7 @ 2:00PM

Join us at the library for a SUMMER BINGO event.- AGES 12-17

TWEEN CRAFT

Tues. 7/21 @ 2:00PM

Join us at the library for crafts, lemonade, and treats! The program will be outdoors weather permitting. AGES 12-17

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CITIZENSHIP CLASS

THURSDAYS 7/23 & 7/30, 5:00 PM

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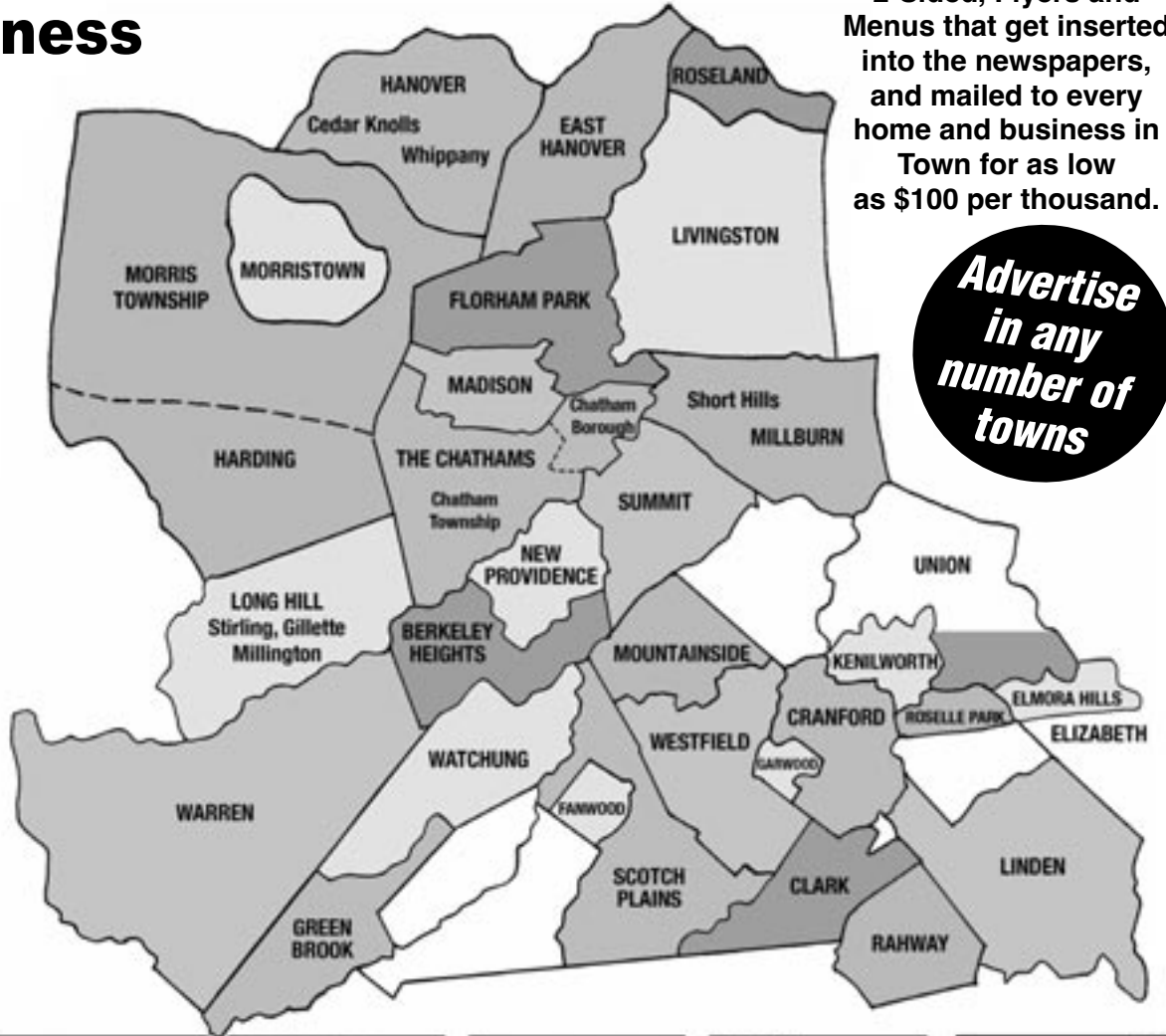
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VOLUNTEERS SWORN IN TO ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

CASA of Passaic and Union Counties

Seven local community members recently took an oath to stand beside children in foster care as advocates during some of the most uncertain moments of their lives. Union County Superior Court Judge Rosalba Comas presided over the swearing-in ceremony for the newest Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) with CASA of Passaic and Union Counties. Each volunteer will be assigned to advocate for a child or sibling set in foster care.

Among the newest child advocates are Crystal Coleman of South Plainfield, Maria de Gannes of Linden, Rachel Hajjar of Cranford, Julie Harnisher of Westfield, Elizabeth Maher of Summit, and Barbara Monaghan of Westfield.

For children navigating foster care, CASA volunteers are often the one consistent adult focused solely on their best interests both inside and outside the courtroom. Now equipped to advocate for infants, children, and teens who

have experienced abuse or neglect, the volunteers join a network of dedicated advocates serving children across Passaic and Union counties. CASA volunteers provide consistent support, gather information from the adults in the youth's life, and make informed recommendations to help ensure their needs and well-being remain at the forefront daily and in court decisions.

Said Erica Fischer-Kaslander, Executive Director of Child Focus, the nonprofit organization that oversees the CASA program, "Every child deserves at least one adult who shows up consistently, listens carefully, and refuses to let them fall through the cracks. These seven volunteers have made an extraordinary commitment to children who urgently need stability, encouragement, and someone wholly dedicated to their future. Their advocacy can, and will, change life trajectories."

No prior knowledge of child welfare is required to become a CASA volunteer;

comprehensive training equips volunteers with the skills necessary to advocate effectively. Volunteer advocates – all of whom bring their own unique life experiences – visit their assigned child regularly and communicate with caregivers, educators, caseworkers, and others before making informed recommendations to the court.

More volunteer advocates are still urgently needed across Passaic and Union counties to help ensure every child in foster care has a dedicated voice in court and the community.

CASA of Passaic and Union Counties is a program of Child Focus, which prioritizes the needs and well-being of infants, children, and teens impacted by, or at risk of, abuse or neglect.

For details about becoming a CASA volunteer, call 973-832-4002,

e-mail info@casapassaicunion.org, or visit CASA of Passaic and Union Counties' website at www.casapassaicunion.org.



(above) Judge Rosalba Comas with Newly Sworn CASAs

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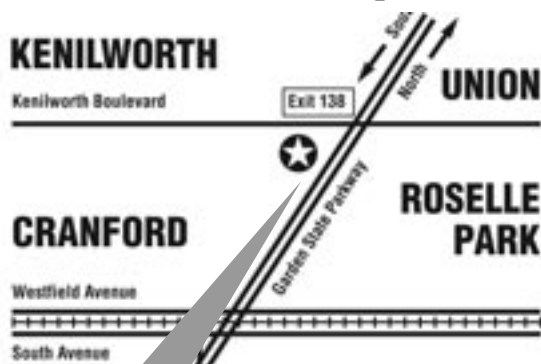
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