

Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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Issue 6 • March 2016

WESTFIELD CHAMBER NETWORKING HAPPY HOUR

**TUESDAY,
MARCH 22**

6:00pm - 7:30pm

METHOD

105 Elm Street,
Westfield NJ 07090

Light bites and refreshments will be provided. Prospective members welcome!

Preregistration:

\$10 members,
\$15 prospective members.
At the door: \$5 additional.

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TONY AWARD WINNER RUPERT HOLMES VISITS SPFHS

Members of the cast and crew of the Scotch Plains Fanwood High School production of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* got top-level advice and a glowing review from Tony Award-winning writer and lyricist Rupert Holmes Wednesday at the high school.

Holmes, who wrote the script and the music for the play, dropped by to talk with the cast and crew, answer questions and to listen to several songs. He's a friend of a Scotch Plains family and heard the group was putting on the production and asked if he could visit before the show is put on next month.

The Mystery of Edwin Drood is a hilarious, interactive whodunit mystery musical that allows the audience to enter the action and become the ultimate detectives. The March shows are produced by the SPFHS Repertory Theatre.

The show is based on Charles Dickens' unfinished novel of the same name. In a small town in England, Edwin Drood has been mysteriously murdered. But, who did it? There is



Photo by Brian Horton

(above) Tony Award-winning author and lyricist Rupert Holmes sings a song from the musical "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" with the cast of the play at Scotch Plains Fanwood High School in Scotch Plains, NJ.

a long list of suspects. Dickens died before he was able to reveal the culprit, so the audience finishes the story Dickens didn't! It can end differently every night, depending on what the audience decides.

Tickets for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Production in March are on sale online starting February 5th at Droodspfhs.brownpapertickets.com.

Performances will be held on Friday, March 11th at 8:00pm, Saturday, March 12th at 8:00pm, Sunday, March 13th at 2:00pm, Thursday, March 17th at 7:00pm, Friday, March 18th at 8:00pm and Saturday, March 19th at 8:00pm. All shows take place at the Many Ungar Memorial Auditorium at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, 667 Westfield Road, Scotch Plains.

To purchase tickets: Go online at Droodspfhs.brownpapertickets.com.

Select your show (day/time) and seat and print out your ticket. Prices are \$17 for Adults, \$14 for Students and \$14 for Seniors (age 60 and up). Scotch Plains/Fanwood residents who have the Senior Citizen "Gold Passes" will be able to receive 1 free ticket. Contact Kathleen Sheehy for questions about "Gold Passes" or Handicapped Seating.

Onsite Ticket Ordering at SPFHS is available on Wednesday, 2/10 prior to the Choral Caberet concert from 6:30 to 7:30, Wednesday, 2/17 7pm-8pm, Tuesday, 2/23 7pm - 8pm and Wednesday, 3/2 from 7-8pm. in the auditorium lobby of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, 667 Westfield Road, Scotch Plains. Any questions, please call Kathleen Sheehy 908-342-0856.

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March 13 at 2pm
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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Community service organizations, schools and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos from recent events.

Organizations who are interested in submitting content, please email Lori Theiss at lori@rennamedia.com

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9,400 papers are printed monthly and mailed to every household and business in Scotch Plains.

Reserve space in the next issue. Call Tina today at 908-418-5586 or email info@rennamedia.com

LOCAL BUSINESSES HOST WESTFIELD CHAMBER NETWORKING MEETINGS

The Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce networking meetings are hosted by local businesses. Vine Ripe Markets on North Avenue, Westfield hosted on March 1, 2016.

Attendees get the opportunity to introduce themselves and network with other Westfield Chamber members. Anyone interested in attending the next event or finding out about being a host can call (908) 233-3021.

(right, l-r) Garwood Mayor Charles Lombardo, Chamber Executive Director Gene Jannotti, and Vine Ripe partner Frank Bruno.



Photos of this and other events can be found at www.rennamedia.com and Scotch Plains Monthly Facebook page. Feel free to "Like", "Tag", and "Share".



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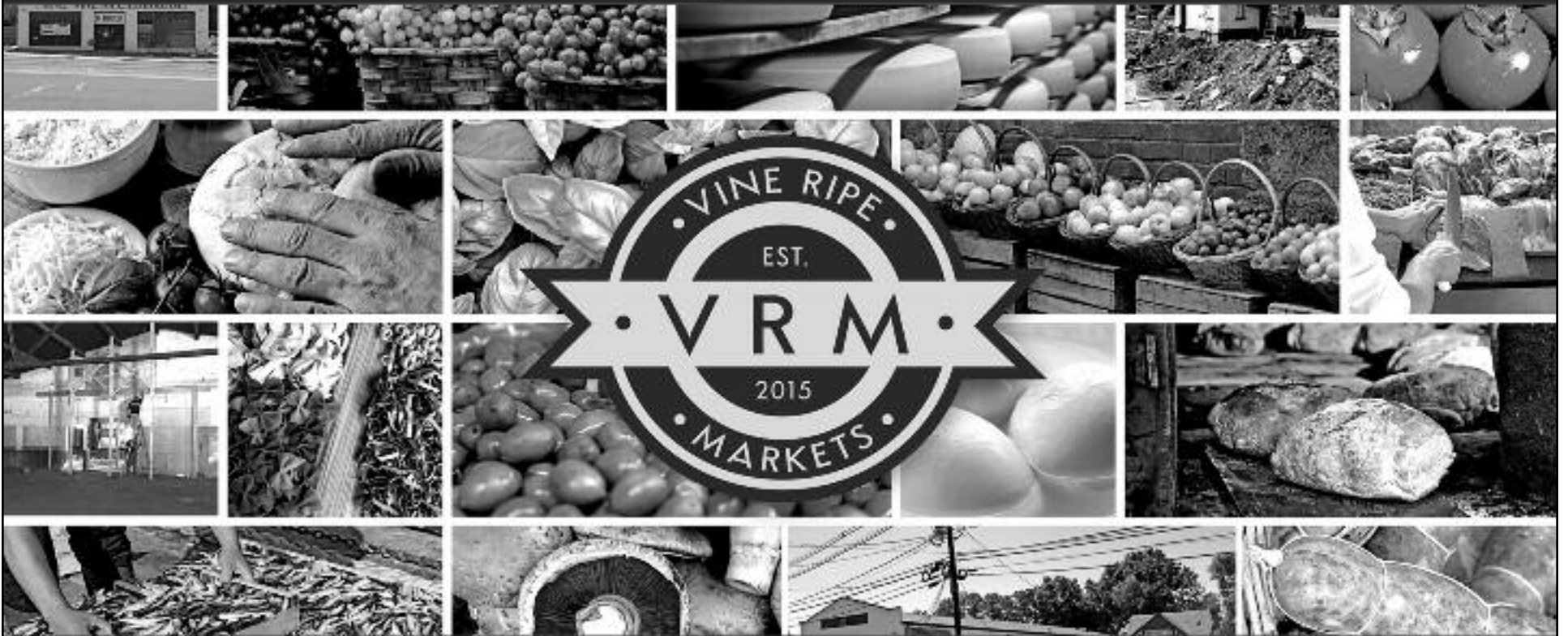
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CHELSEA HOSTS NETWORKING EVENT FEATURING PLUS FACTOR

On Feb 24, the Chelsea in Fanwood hosted a networking event sponsored by The Chelsea and the Neighborhood Networking Group (NNG) featuring Terry Viney of the Plus Factor and his presentation titled Network with Power.

This was the Chelsea's third networking event. These events are open to local businesses and give ample opportunities to network during the evening. The Chelsea is located at 295 South Avenue in Fanwood. The event was free to all.

If you are interested in finding out more about The Chelsea's upcoming events, please contact Danielle Fisher, Director of Community Relations by phone at 908-654-5200 or feel free to visit their website at www.chelseaseniorliving.com.



(above, l-r) Patrick Cicala of NNG and speaker Terry Viney.

A DAY OF DISCOVERY AT HOWARD BRUNNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Brunner School PT hosted a wonderful science and engineering day at Brunner School on Saturday, February 20th. Students explored concepts in magnetism while they raced cars with magnets using opposite poles, they also got a first hand look at the inner workings of computers at a "take apart station", experimented with electricity by making circuits, programed computers, and much more.

Also a hit at Day of Discovery was the opportunity to visit the Starlab Planetarium. Starlab is an inflatable planetarium that students

and parents can enter and be taken millions of miles away to the far reaches of our Solar System. Mrs. Charlene Hall, third grade teacher at Brunner School, led the explorations in Starlab while Mr. Garrett Lesnevich led the parent volunteers who facilitated inquiries in the multi-purpose room. When Starlab was finished at Brunner, it was packed up and taken to Park Middle School where science teachers, Mrs. Peggy Brown and Mr. John Scholtz, were able to share this experience with their sixth grade scientists.



(above) Brunner students in the picture are Lucas Mirzwa and Meredith White.

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MINI BOWLING IS BIG HIT

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS

The National Merit Scholarship Program has announced that two Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School seniors, Shona Jain and Daniel Zheng, are Finalists in the 2016 Competition for National Merit Scholarships.

This is one of the most coveted honors that can be bestowed on a high school student and is shared by less than 1% of graduating seniors. To qualify as a National Merit Scholarship Finalists, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation reviews each student's academic record, information about the school's curricula and grading system, two sets of test scores, the high school official's written recommendation, information about the student's activities and leadership, and the Finalist's own essay.



(above, l-r) Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School seniors, Daniel Zheng and Shona Jain.

Jersey Lanes Bowling Center opened the next big thing, mini-bowling, a mini-version of the regular game in a circus atmosphere. The private party room hosted its first kid's birthday party on February 21, 2016. But before the big day the lanes were tested by players from the Junior Bowling League.

The test went perfect and the teens enjoyed

the novelty of playing on the mini lanes designed to accommodate kids from preschool on up.

Jersey Lanes is located at 30 Park Avenue in Linden. Visit www.JerseyLanes.com for more information or connect with Jersey Lanes on Facebook. The party room can be reserved by calling 908-486-6300.



(above) Junior Bowling League member tries her hand at the mini bowling at Jersey Lanes.

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7TH GRADE U.S. STUDIES JUST GOT INCREDIBLY INTERESTING

In an effort to make U.S. studies as immersive as possible for their students, Mr. Litz and Mr. Ritsko - Park Middle School's 7th Grade U.S. Studies instructors - have been selected to attend a week long summer institute with the purpose of integrating games with classroom learning. They know that no matter who you are and what your background, all people know what a game is. Through participation in a game based curriculum, students learn to take responsibility for their own learning by interacting, engaging, and working on the results that they set for themselves. This approach teaches team building and cooperation while making the social studies curriculum approachable and accessible to all

students.

Princeton's Woodrow Wilson HistoryQuest Teaching Fellowship (a program created to expose teachers to new educational philosophies and techniques) has partnered with the Institute of Play (organization devoted to creating game like curriculums to simulate real world problems and well-thought out solutions) to host a week-long series of professional workshops designed to provide teachers new educational techniques with a focus on educational game design. Games naturally require users to implement many skills that are considered 21st-century learning objectives. From practicing active listening and peer-to-peer communication, to using constantly

changing data to make informed decisions while problem solving, games offer an interactive medium by which people (and in this case, our students) get to improve their critical thinking skills.

The addition of game-based learning to the U.S. studies program is sure to make for a more engaged student population and an incredibly exciting learning experience here at Park Middle School. Mr. Ritsko knows from his days as a student at Park Middle School, the way students learn has evolved and he, along with his colleague Mr. Litz, are delivering hands on experience with the outcome of history in a student centered way!

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(above) Students featured: Christian Estevez, Ralph Ramos, Kotey Ashie, Hadley Moran, Jade Glassman, Emma Philip.

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SPF HS STUDENTS' BARCELONA EXCHANGE

Eighteen students from Scotch Plains Fanwood High School traveled to Spain on February 10, 2016 to participate in a student exchange program with students from Col. Ilegi Sagrada Familia in Barcelona. Our students stayed in the homes of their pen pals in Barcelona during the 10-day exchange, where they were challenged to use their Spanish to communicate while experiencing aspects of daily life. Numerous exciting activities were packed into their whirlwind travel experience.



Students spent a couple days in Madrid, Spain's capital, where they visited places of interest such as the famous Prado museum, the Reina Sofia Art Museum, and the Palacio Real, attended (and participated in!) a Flamenco performance, and enjoyed a traditional Tapas dinner.

Barcelona about life in Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and experienced daily life as a typical Spanish teenager.

From there, students traveled by train to Barcelona where they met up with their pen pals, stayed with their host families, attended school and facilitated presentations for classes in

Upon their return to the United States, our student travelers will anxiously await the arrival of their Barcelona pen pals, who will visit Scotch Plains and Fanwood beginning on March 9, 2016. Our families will then host the Barcelona students during their 10-day stay here.

CAREER DAY AT PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

This year's Career Exploration Day took place at Park Middle School on February 19th. Eighth graders participated in a series of presentations from community members and parent volunteers.

At the conclusion of the day, students were asked to think about which factors were most important in choosing a career. One student's response was, "I believe the opportunity to 'make a difference' is the most important. If you could improve the world with your work, that is fantastic!" Another student's response was, "Salary and benefits are most important because I will need to be able to make money so I can live the life I want."

Throughout the day students listened to, asked questions, and discussed in small groups the benefits of learning about different careers starting in middle school. To highlight a few of the day's presenters: Dr. Karen Kulikowski shared her career path in dentistry, Mr. Dan Murphy shared his work at Verizon in the Innovation Program, and Scotch Plains Detective Brian Hayeck provided a look at the daily decisions law enforcement makes.

The presenters were thanked for sharing their insights in career planning with our students as they begin to consider their transition to high school at the end of this academic year.

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INROADS AND THE MAGLEY FAMILY PARTNER UP FOR A PERFECT DINING EXPERIENCE

Submitted by Michele Ford

On July 1, 2015, Inroads Enterprises LLC, a division of Inroads to Opportunities, purchased and began operating the Mara's Café and Bakery in Fanwood, New Jersey. Inroads Board of Directors and the management staff had spent a year investigating a franchise purchase as a way to increase competitive integrated employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The Mara's franchise seemed to be the right fit and the Magley family, owners of the franchise, were very receptive to this partnership. They are also grateful to the town of Fanwood for helping make the purchase a seamless one for the Café in helping get through the paperwork. The Café is located on South Avenue in the heart of Fanwood across from the train station and provides a comfortable dining experience for any time of day. Since purchasing this business, the staff at Mara's have been working with the staff at Inroads to develop a training and employment experience for participants who traditionally have been fearful of entering the competitive job market.

According to Michele Ford, President of Inroads to Opportunities, "We are fortunate to have kept the staff intact at Mara's and have been able to retain the original owner to assist in making this new venture a smooth and successful one." To date Mara's has provided work opportunities to 5 individuals facing employment challenges. It has also given Inroads to Opportunities staff some insight into the changing landscape and expectations in



providing training and employment for individuals with disabilities.

We hope that you will all come down to Mara's to check out the bakery, coffee, breakfast, lunch and dinner offerings. We are also looking to provide other activities at the Café. October kicked off our Music Series, so now we have live music on select Friday and Saturday nights throughout the year. Our goal is to provide a place for the community to enjoy live entertainment, which will include all styles of music and an Open Mic night. Check out Mara's Fanwood Facebook page or the Mara's website calendar to see what new and exciting offers are coming your way at Mara's Café and bakery, 250 South Ave. in Fanwood.

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SCOTCH PLAINS ARTIST JOSEPH LENTINI SHOWS WORK IN UNION

SCOTCH PLAINS SCOUT RYAN BERGH THIES PLAYS CHESS IN WHITE CASTLE TOURNAMENT

Scotch Plains resident Ryan Bergh Thies represented Boy Scout Troop 104 at the annual White Castle Boy Scout Chess Tournament. The Cranford Community Center was the site for the Third Annual Tournament sponsored by White Castle. The tournament was open to all registered Boy Scouts, Venturers and Explorers.

White Castle purchased 20 sets, boards and clocks for Munsee District Boy Scouts. The company also covered expenses for running the tournament including trophies for the top three winners and ribbons for participants. They also supplied lunch for all players and spectators.



(above) Scotch Plains resident Ryan Bergh Thies represented Boy Scout Troop 104

Throughout the month of March, Urban Artist, Joseph Lentini is showing his work at Van Gogh's Ear Restaurant in Union on Stuyvesant Ave. Lentini's work is known to be unique and fresh, reflecting the world as he sees it with a touch of

whimsy. Lentini's work has been shown nationally.

He is originally from Queens NY, but has lived in Scotch Plains for the past 10 years with his wife michelle and two sons, Avery and Jacy.



(above) Joseph with his wife Michelle.





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COLLEGE CLUB PRESENTS "THE HISTORY AND MUSIC OF THE FIDDLE IN AMERICA" MONDAY MARCH 21, 7:30-8:30 PM

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains welcomes historian and working musician Matthew Backes to discuss the origins, styles, and interrelated histories of a range of fiddle traditions while providing demonstration of technique and repertoire.

Until the early twentieth century, the fiddle was the centerpiece of American folk music and folk culture. Since then it has been the focus of a musical preservation impulse and a search for authentic folk expression, often referred to as

"traditional" music. This presentation explores the dynamic role of fiddle music in American life from the eighteenth century to the present.

The program is free and open to the public. The College Club's mission is to support education of our youth, local community and we encourage you to bring your children, scouts, and community groups to our meeting at The Chelsea located at 295 South Ave, Fanwood, NJ. Refreshments will begin at 7:30 pm with the program to start at 7:45pm.

TEMPLE SHOLOM TO HOST DISCUSSION OF THE HISTORY OF JEWISH HUMOR

Jewish Humor is funny stuff, but the history of Jewish humor provides a penetrating window into the core of the Jewish Story. Jews at many times were miserable and laughter kept them going. This program will look at humor from the Torah to today and the observation of how much of our humor is based on our interaction with the world.

Rabbi Laurence P. Malinge was born in Philadelphia and raised in Florida, Virginia and Texas. He received his Masters of Arts in Hebrew Letters degree and was ordained Rabbi in 1992 and 1993 respectively, from the Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio. Upon ordination in 1993, Rabbi Malinge became Assistant Rabbi and Director of Education at Congregation Beth Emeth in Wilmington, Delaware. He was promoted to Associate Rabbi in July, 1997. In June of 1999 Rabbi Malinge was elected as senior Rabbi of Temple Shalom of Aberdeen, New Jersey.

Join us for this free event on Sunday, March 6th at 7 pm in Temple Shalom 1925 Lake Avenue, Scotch Plains. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call the temple office at 908-889-4900 or consult the temple's website at www.sholomnj.org. This event is made possible by a grant from the Ruth Rutenberg Fund at Temple Shalom.

ABOUT TEMPLE SHOLOM

Founded in 1913, Temple Shalom is a Reform Jewish congregation led by Rabbi Joel N. Abraham and Cantor Darcie Sharlein. The temple and its religious school are home to about 250 families from the greater Scotch Plains-Fanwood area. The congregation recently moved to its new home at 1925 Lake Ave. in Scotch Plains. Temple Shalom is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism. For more information about the Temple or joining the congregation, please call 908-889-4900, e-mail sholom@sholomnj.org or visit www.sholomnj.org.

NEEDLE NITERS UNITE AT FANWOOD CHURCH

People attending Needle Nite at Fanwood Presbyterian Church make many lovely items for charities. At the January meeting 40 quilts were ready to be displayed at the Harvest Quilter's Show on April 2nd at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church. Also, collected were several crocheted afghans, knit sweaters and hats and booties for the new born and hats and scarves for the Seafarers on cargo ships.

Nancy Bassman, co-chair of Needle Nite

demonstrated the new pattern for 2016 named "9 Patchtastic", a variation of the classic "9 Patch".

The next Needle Nite at Fanwood Presbyterian Church is scheduled for March 4th at 7:30pm in Westminster Hall on Marian Ave. The April Needle Nite is now scheduled for the second Friday on April 8th.

All are welcome to come and see what is being done and to join the group. If fabric, batting or yarn is needed, Needle Niters may e-mail their request to needlenite@fanwoodpc.org. The donated materials used end up in many forms usable by the charities that receive them. The Needle Nite Participants then take their newly learned skills for their use at home.

For further information about these projects or directions to Fanwood Presbyterian Church please call the office at 908-889-8891 or e-mail admin@fanwoodpc.org or check the web www.fanwoodpc.org.

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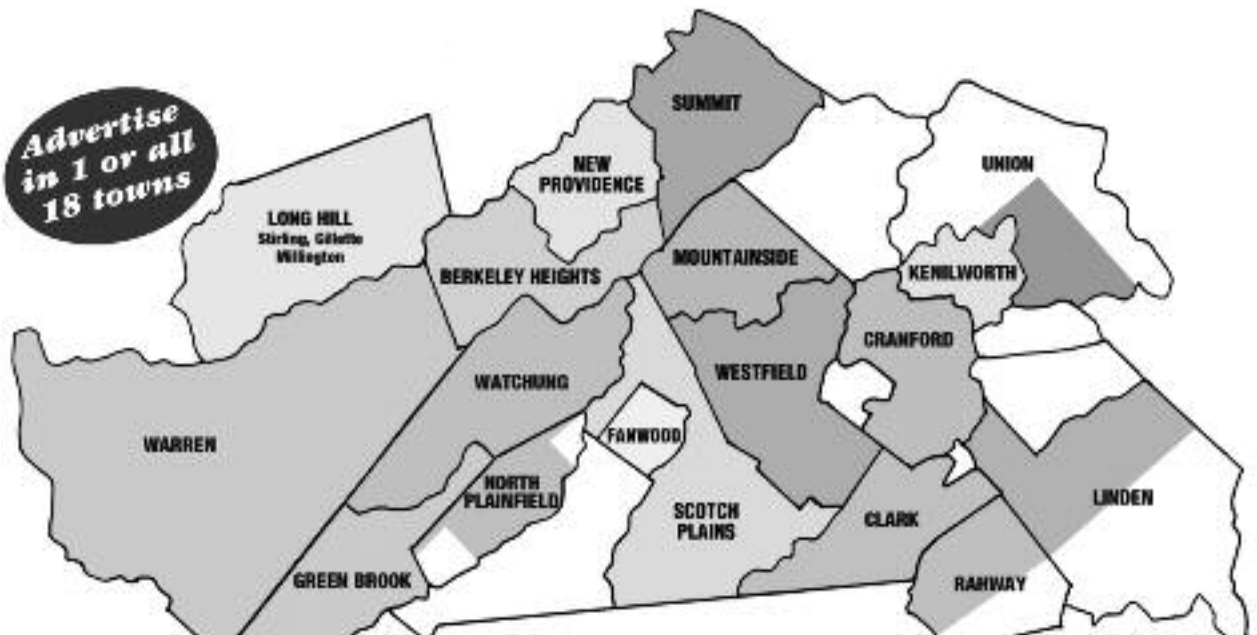
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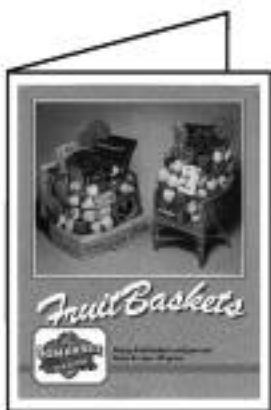
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