

The PRIDE of North Plainfield

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North Plainfield's Hometown Newspaper

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**NORTH
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MEETS
EVERY TUESDAY
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JAZZ MUSICIAN SPEAKS ABOUT EXPERIENCES WITH POLIO

Local jazz musician and vocalist Fred Fischer spoke on November 9 at the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield.

An accomplished pianist and vocalist, Fred is a member of the Beacon Hill Jazz Band and the NFL Vocal Jazz Trio. He also accompanies many other jazz performers and teaches at his own studio. He is the former choral director at the Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison, and has been the organist and music director at United Congregational Church in Plainfield for over twenty years.

His accomplished music career substituted for his childhood plan to work in the theater. This plan was derailed when Fred contracted polio at a young age, as did a brother and sister. In the early 1950's, polio was a scourge that killed or crippled half a million people annually in the United States and worldwide before the development of the Salk and the Sabin vaccines.

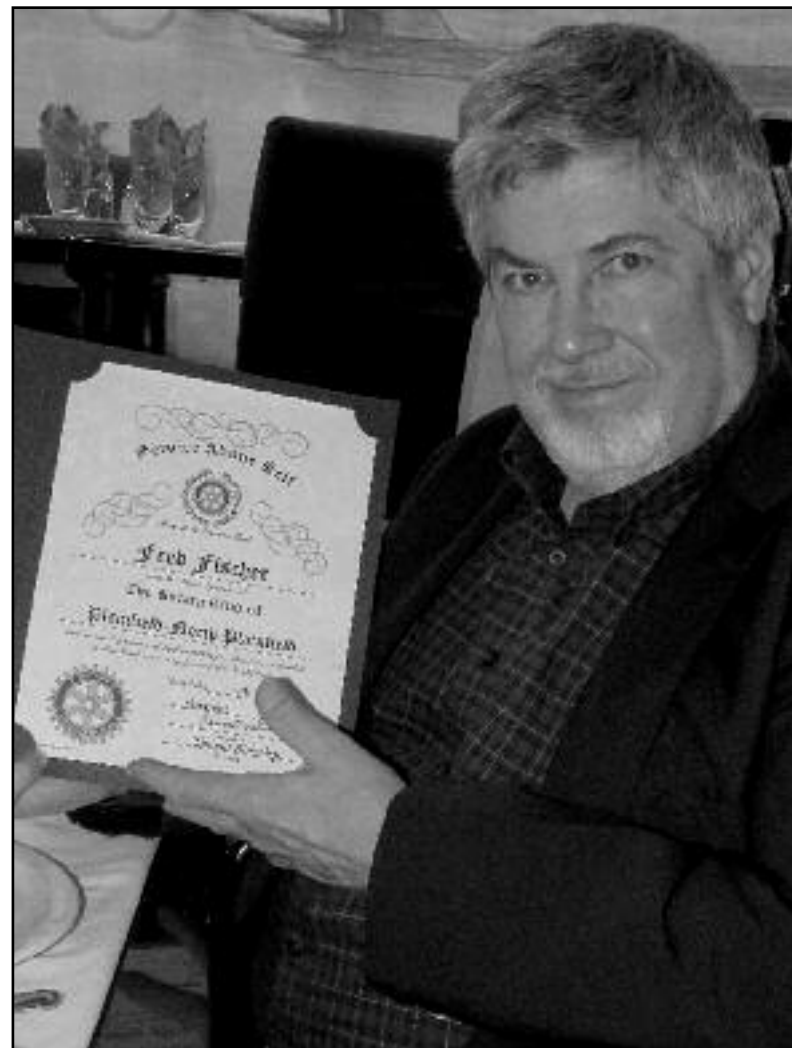
Fred and his siblings were treated for polio and survived, although Fred suffered paralysis that changed his life. Unable to pursue his career in theater, he focused on his musical and vocal talents and became an accomplished performer. He counts himself lucky to have lived the life he has lived, despite its mobility limitations.

Fred was invited to speak to the local Rotary club as a polio survivor by Vicky Griswold, club member and owner of the Plainfield Music Store. "I just thought that we should hear Fred's experiences since Rotary is so determined to eliminate polio in the world," said Ms. Griswold.

The Rotary Foundation has been working with Rotary clubs and other organizations throughout the world to raise enough money to immunize all the world's children against this dreaded disease. In recent years, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has joined with Rotary and pledged hundreds of millions of dollars to assist the campaign.

In 1985, Rotary launched its PolioPlus program, the first initiative to tackle global polio eradication through the mass vaccination of children. Rotary has contributed more than \$1.6 billion and countless volunteer hours to immunize more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries. In addition, Rotary's advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by donor governments to contribute more than \$7.2 billion to the effort.

Polio is now endemic in two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan, with some resurgence in Nigeria that is also being addressed. The fight against polio is not limited to



(above) Fred Fischer

Rotarians. Anyone can donate to the PolioPlus effort by visiting www.endpolionow.org.

The Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield, founded in 1921, has served the community for over 95 years. Members are community and business leaders in the area who meet weekly on Wednesdays at 12:15 pm at Giovanna's Restaurant in Plainfield.

If you would like to meet new people, become friends, and serve others, then come to Giovanna's any Wednesday to learn more about how you can join or support this great service club. Contact Michael Townley, club secretary, at rotarypnp@verizon.net for additional information about the Rotary Club, and its activities or to inquire about membership, or visit the Club's website at www.rotarypnp.org.

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The Pride of North Plainfield is published by Renna Media. 6,500 newspapers are printed monthly and are mailed to every businesses and homes in North Plainfield, NJ using the 07060 zip code and are distributed for free pick-up throughout town.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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Renna Media welcomes the comments and concerns of its readers put into writing and sent via phone, fax or email to:

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PROMOTE YOUR EVENT

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

Organizations who are interested in submitting content can email editor@rennamedia.com or call 908-418-5586

HOW TO FILE A TAX APPEAL TO BE SUBJECT OF FEB. 2ND MEETING OF NPCCR

The next meeting of the north Plainfield Citizens for Community Rights (NPCCR) will be Thursday, February 2nd, at 7:00 p.m. at the North Plainfield Community Center located at 614 Greenbrook Road. The meetings are free and opened to the public.

Our guest speaker, Robert Graham. Mr. Graham, will conduct a seminar instructing you on how to file a property tax appeal. Please bring

the most current green card you received from the Borough showing your current tax rate, a calculator, pen and notepad. North Plainfield has had the highest municipal tax rate in Somerset County for the years 2015 and 2016 according to the county tax record.

NPCCR posts the current police reports and council meetings on our site. You can view them by going to www.npccr.org.

UMPIRE CERTIFICATION CLASS TO BE HELD IN JANUARY

ASA/USA Softball NJ District 2 will hold its umpire certification class in Cranford beginning in mid-January 2017. The class costs \$75, and will run from 6-8 weeks, including both classroom and gym training. Once certified, you will be eligible to umpire any of the thousands of the games ASA/USA Softball NJ hosts throughout the state, including the 3,500 games hosted by District 2 in

and around Union County. Please contact District 2 Commissioner Keith Hoffman at khoffran@aol.com, 908-463-3960 with interest.

ASA/USA Softball is the largest and oldest softball organization in the world, and is the official sponsoring organization for Team U.S.A., the women who will represent our country in Softball at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020.

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Candace K.



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VIP HONDA DONATES TOYS FOR STAR FISH FOOD PANTRY HOLIDAY MEALS

Santa's elves have been busy at VIP Honda in North Plainfield, and, as a result, hundreds of Plainfield children will receive Christmas presents with their holiday meal provided by Star Fish Food Pantry.

Star Fish volunteers packed 150 Thanksgiving dinner bags in November and also on December 22 for families in need in Plainfield. Along with the Christmas dinners and all the fixings, the group distributed children's toys of all kinds to help brighten their holiday.

Marie Pase, administrator for the Star Fish Food Pantry, was contacted by VIP Honda representatives Marissa Carter and Amanda Kavanaugh with the offer for toys. "The folks at VIP have donated toys for years," said Marie. "It's a wonderful tradition that is so generous."

According to the staff in the Accounting Office, the VIP employees prepare all the food for their Thanksgiving luncheon, and each person attending gives a cash donation for the toys. Bill Vince, owner of VIP, matches the employees' donations. Office workers, led by Marissa and Amanda, then purchase toys for each age group from 1 to teens.

Star Fish volunteers picked up all of the presents from VIP Honda and brought them to Covenant United Methodist Church basement, where other elves in Santa's workshop prepared them for distribution with the Christmas holiday meal bags.

Volunteers at Star Fish will pack the dinner bags with canned vegetables, macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes, turkeys or large chickens, yams, cranberry sauce, milk, butter, and tea bags. Topping off the dinners will be homemade cakes, specially decorated for Christmas, made by Girl Scouts, friends of volunteers, co-workers and former co-workers.

Among the people donating food every year are members of the Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield who donate twelve dinners to supplement those packed by the volunteers. The club also donates twelve dinners to Star Fish for the Thanksgiving and Easter holidays each year.

Star Fish Food Pantry has served the people of Plainfield since 1971. Donations and volunteers are always welcome. More information is available on the Star Fish website at www.starfishplainfield.org.

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(above) Toys of all types were donated by VIP Honda of North Plainfield await children whose families will also receive Christmas dinners, courtesy of Star Fish Food Pantry.

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LITERACY VOLUNTEERS PARTNERS WITH LOCAL LIBRARIES IN 2017

Earlier this year, Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County reported that, in one year, more than 350 students received LVSC free services: 236 adults received weekly tutoring from 184 volunteer tutors; more than 100 students participated in Conversation Groups; and 20 students completed U.S. Citizenship Preparation Classes. In all, volunteers provided more than 8,000 hours of free literacy instruction. And that's just the beginning.

"There are many adults in our community who are eager to improve their English literacy and become an integrated part of the community," said Aimee Lam, LVSC executive director. "Each has a different reason to seek literacy instruction: some want financial independence but need better literacy skills on the job, others want to read to their child or grandchild, and the vast majority want to be able to communicate confidently. We are proud to help these hard working individuals and are grateful to our volunteers who commit the time and energy to provide literacy instruction. To meet the local need, LVSC plans to train a greater number of volunteer tutors in 2017 while increasing Conversation Group and U.S. Citizenship Preparation class offerings in county libraries."

LVSC has announced that the organization will once again partner with Somerset County Library System of New Jersey to provide services to the community. Services will include English Conversation Groups, Become a Literacy Tutor information sessions, and a U.S. Citizenship Preparation Class.

"The English conversation groups and citizenship classes led by LVSC and hosted by our libraries are helping new Americans integrate into our communities," said Marcela Dunham, SCLSNJ system programming coordinator. "By giving these adult learners the gift of language, they are now better able to communicate with their children's teachers, as well as successfully navigate doctors' visits and job interviews. By partnering with LVSC, we're welcoming new Americans into our libraries, opening a new world of knowledge and opportunity to

experience everything the libraries have to offer to them, while creating positive experiences and lasting bonds with tutors, fellow students, and the community in general. We look forward to collaborating with LVSC in 2017 to develop new classes and initiatives to serve the community and help newcomers achieve their dreams of a better life for themselves and their families."

LVSC programs hosted at your local SCLSNJ's library branches:

Become a Literacy Tutor

LVSC invites you to become a literacy tutor and change a person's life! LVSC will be hosting information sessions at:

- SCLSNJ's Bridgewater Library branch, located at 1 Vogt Drive in Bridgewater on January 9, 10-11 a.m. & January 12, 6-7 p.m.
- SCLSNJ's Hillsborough Library branch, located at 379 South Branch Road in Hillsborough on January 17, 10-11 a.m. & January 18, 6-7 p.m.

English Conversation Groups

Practice speaking English in a friendly setting. Basic English skills are required. Participate at:

- SCLSNJ's Warren Twp Library branch, located at 42 Mountain Blvd. in Warren Twp. on Mondays, 10-11:30 a.m. (January 9 - March 13)
- SCLSNJ's North Plainfield Memorial Library branch, located at 6 Rockview Ave. in North Plainfield on Mondays, 7-8:30 p.m. (January 9 - March 13)

U.S. Citizenship Preparation Class

This free 16-hour course, taught in two-hour sessions over eight weeks, focuses on the civics, history and vocabulary needed to pass the citizenship test and interview. This class is taught by Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County. All materials will be supplied. Registration required. This program will be held at SCLSNJ's Bridgewater Library branch, located at 1 Vogt Drive in Bridgewater, Saturdays, January 21 - March 11, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

For more information or to register for these programs, visit SCLSNJ.org or contact your local SCLSNJ library branch.

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“Finding Healthcare Information Online: What can I Trust?” by the Visiting

Nurse Association of Somerset Hills

January 9, 10:30 am

Each year, millions of Americans use the internet to search for healthcare information. Finding quality websites and accurate, current information can help people make informed decisions and improve communication between patients and their doctors. Join us and learn valuable information including search strategy tips, how to spot unreliable websites, and sources you can trust.

“Unused Medication Drop-Off Opportunity” with Officer Nick Fazio, Somerset County Sheriff’s Department

January 18, 9:30-10:30 am.

Officer Fazio will be at the center to collect any unused or expired medications. Please take advantage of the safe way to dispose of your medications. SYRINGES ARE NOT ACCEPTED.

“Niagara Falls” by Kevin Woyce,
Author, Photographer and Lecturer

January 23, 10:15 am

Join us for an illustrated tour of the Niagara a river, from its historic bridges and forts to modern-day parks and tourist attractions. Discover how the river, falls and gorge formed, and see how they have changed over the years. You will be introduced to the river’s explorers and settlers; daredevils who risked their lives for fame or fortune; businessmen who harnessed the falls’ power; and the conservationists and visionaries who saved the falls for generations of visitors. Have you ever visited Niagara Falls? Would you like to become a part of this special program and share your experiences? If yes, please call Gwen at (908) 753-9440 by January 6th (10:15 am – shared memories; 10:30 am – Kevin’s presentation).

“Chinese Watercolor” by Barbara Gerson, Art 4 All

January 30, 10:30 am

Learn the paint brush strokes required for Chinese Watercolor painting. *Reservations required by Wednesday, January 25th**

LIBRARY PET COLLECTION A BIG SUCCESS

During November and December, Somerset County Library System of New Jersey collected about 700 pounds of dry pet food, 50 pounds dog biscuits, 500 cans of pet food, five dog beds, three animal carriers, and numerous toys, leashes, towels, laundry detergents, pet bowls, pet treats, and gift cards from SCLSNJ staff and the community for the Somerset Regional Animal Shelter. SCLSNJ staff member Edith Lit (pictured center left) coordinated the collection and delivered, thanks to the help of SCLSNJ staffer Mike Constante (pictured center right), the largest donation SCLSNJ has given to the shelter to date with Somerset County Library Commissioner Sherri Lynn (pictured left) on Tuesday, December 20. Shelter Manager Brian Bradshaw (pictured right) gladly accepted the donations on behalf of the shelter.



LIGHTS OF WASHINGTON PARK

Ten years ago the North Plainfield Washington Park Historic Association started to explore the beauty and history of North Plainfield through the most distinctive stained glass windows in the Borough. The research and photography was done by Ken Lombardo. The high quality color photos are now in a 241 page book titled "The

Lights of Washington Park"

This coffee table book is available for viewing at any branch of the Somerset County Library System.

Anyone wishing to purchase a copy of this book scan contact Frank at 908-757-6353 or frankdsr@comcast.net. The cost is \$65.00.

FREE WORKSHOP ON STARTING A NEW BUSINESS

Starting your own small business may be the fulfillment of a long-held dream, but it’s also a very risky proposition: about half of all businesses fail within five years. That’s why UCEDC, a non-profit, small business lender and entrepreneurial training organization, is offering a free workshop, “Starting a Business in NJ – the Steps you Need to Take” on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 6 pm at its Cranford headquarters.

Led by UCEDC Director of Training Erich Peter, the session will cover the mechanics of starting a business including the pros and cons of different legal business structures, required insurances; understanding your tax liabilities, and HR issues.

“You may have the greatest product or service

to sell, but it won’t matter if you don’t prepare yourself for the many challenges you will inevitably face,” warns Peter. “We’ll review some of the more critical factors that contribute to a successful small business and give you a strong foundation to move ahead.”

UCEDC is the entrepreneurial training arm of the NJ Economic Development Authority and provides scores of free business literacy workshops throughout New Jersey.

Online registration for the free workshop is available on the UCEDC website: www.ucedc.com. For more information, contact Erich Peter at 908-527-1166 or epeter@ucedc.com.

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Program dates and times are subject to change. All programs are free and registration is required unless otherwise indicated. Visit SCLSNJ.org or call the Library for more information and to register.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Morning Knitting & Crochet Meetup

January 3, 17, & 31, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Embrace the New Year with Meditation

January 5, 7-8:30 p.m.

Adult Basic Education Series

January 7, 14, 21, & 28, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

English Language Learners Series

January 7, 14, 21, & 28, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

English Conversation Group Meetup

January 9, 23, & 30, 7-8:30 p.m.

Book Discussion

January 12, 1-2 p.m.

"The Happiness Project" by Gretchen Rubin.

Citizenship Class

January 12, 19, & 26, 6-8:30 p.m.

Affordable Care Act Enrollment Assistance

January 14, 1-3 p.m.

Intro to Hypnotherapy

January 21, 2-3 p.m.

Cool & Aware: Sexual Abuse Prevention Workshop

January 23, 7-8 p.m.

Vegan Baking

January 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast

Take The 'A' Train: A Music Performance by Follow the Drinking Gourd Trio

CHILDREN, TWEEN, & TEEN PROGRAMS

Teen Cooking: You Pick the Meal!

January 3, 10, & 17, 3:30-5 p.m.

(tweens & teens)

The Saturday Special: Drop In Craft

January 7, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

(all ages)

Teen Game Day

January 9, 23, & 30, 3:30-5 p.m.

(grades 6-12)

Moving Kiddos

January 10, 17, 24, & 31, 10-10:30 a.m.

(6 months - 2 years old)

Tween Volunteers

January 10, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

(grades 4-6)

Rhyme & Play Storytime

January 11, 18, & 25, 10-11 a.m.

(2-4 years old)

Lego Club (grades K-5)

January 26, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

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GIFT COLLECTION

Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's staff members came together in the spirit of giving to donate gifts to programs supported by Alternatives, Inc., an organization that provides comprehensive services to

individuals/families with special needs to enable them to reach their highest level of independence and integration into the community. The gifts were distributed to those in need in several of Alternatives, Inc.'s programs in Somerset County.



(above l-r) Lisa Bieckwalter, program coordinator for Alternatives, Inc.'s Supportive Living Program; Heather Bielefeldt, program coordinator for Alternatives, Inc.'s Franklin House; Edith Lit, a library assistant at SCLSNJ and coordinator of the donations for Alternatives, Inc.; and Lynn Hoffman, SCLSNJ's director of operations. Thanks to the generosity of the staff, 55 people received gifts for the holidays.

NORTH PLAINFIELD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The November meeting for the North Plainfield Business Association (NPBA) was held on Tuesday, November 29th at the Valley National Bank Branch at 1334 Route 22 East in town. Cindy Boyd of Valley National Bank sponsored the meeting. The guest speakers were Elizbete Pata and Carolann DeMatos, from the Somerset County Library. They gave a presentation on "Reference USA" and other free business resources. There will be no meeting in December. The next NPBA meeting will be held on the last Tuesday of January (31st) at 7:00 pm,

the location is to be determined.

The NPBA membership remains free. There are elevated membership levels, which range in price from \$100 - \$300, which includes benefits and sponsorship opportunities.

Anyone interested in the NPBA can reach out to: Pete Eddy 908-256-1273, Danny Dominguez 908-447-2468, or Bruce Heyman 908-755-4700.

You can also find the North Plainfield Business Association on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/NPBusinessAssociation



(above l-r) Carolann DeMatos, Director of Marketing & Public Relations, and Elizabete Pata Head of Adult Services for the North Plainfield Branch Memorial Library were guest speakers at the November NPBA meeting.

NORTH PLAINFIELD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The North Plainfield Business Association was established in 1938 and is open to any local business. Standard membership is FREE and the benefits are invaluable. Members receive the opportunity to network and advertise their business on a monthly basis. Monthly meetings feature educational guest speakers from the worlds of marketing, advertising, finance and

more. The NPBA offers mentoring, problem-solving, start-up services and liaison with borough offices. If you have a local business, large or small, the NPBA is right for you. Fill out this form for your FREE membership or join at a higher level for additional benefits. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting – held the last Tuesday of every month at 7pm.

North Plainfield Business Association "Working for You" MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Company _____

Contact _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email: _____

Number Years in Business _____

Number of Employees _____

Website _____

Type of business _____

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- Standard Membership - FREE!
 - Bronze Level Sponsor - \$100
 - Silver Level Sponsor - \$200
 - Gold Level Sponsor - \$300
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 - Special Sponsor Listing on all Communications
 - Special Recognition at all events
 - Access to membership list for eblasts (Bronze 2x, Silver 4x, Gold 6x)
 - _____ Silver & Gold Permitted to post banners at all meetings and events
 - _Gold Sponsors receive complimentary full page in NPBA calendar
 - Gold Sponsors mentioned in all Advertising

Please return application to Bruce Heyman at Fabricland: FAX 908-755-6368
EMAIL – bruce@fabricland.com
MAIL – 855 Route 22, North Plainfield, NJ 07060
QUESTIONS?
Call Bruce 908-755-4700;
Pete Eddy 908-256-1273;
or Danny Dominguez 908-447-2468
(Spanish version available from Mr. Dominguez)

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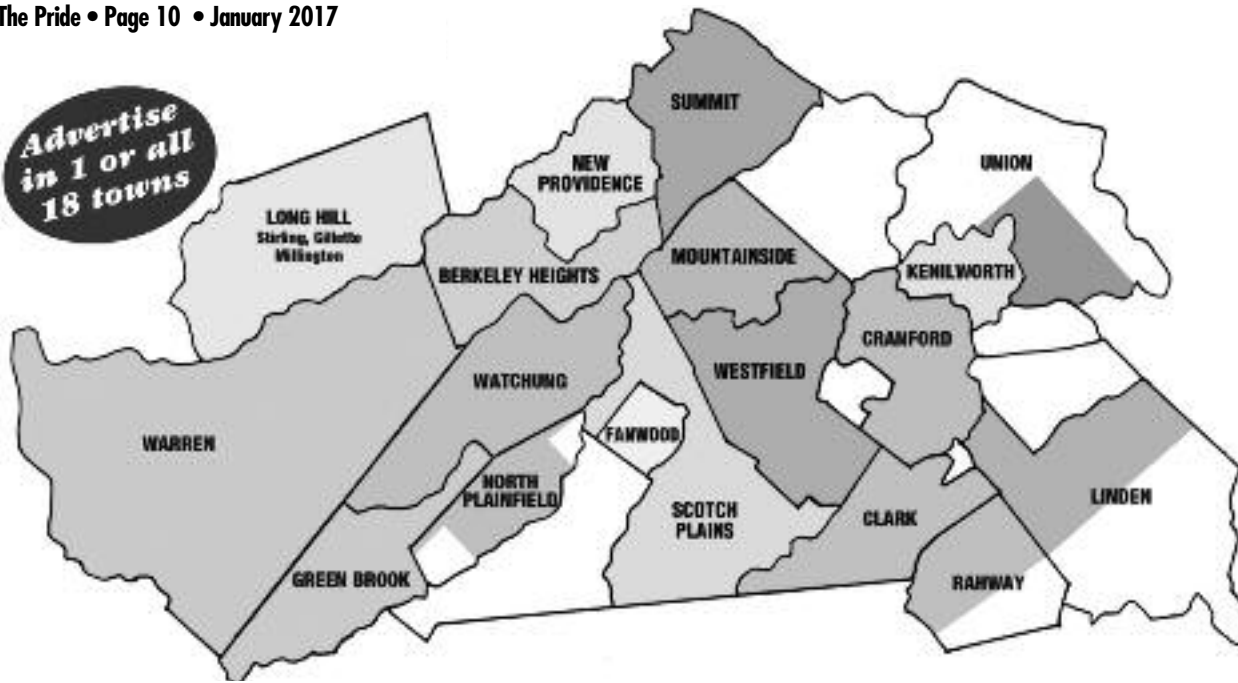
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