

Now & Then

A Special Commemorative Edition • October 16, 2025



Beatlemania 1964



Gingerbread Castle



Flagship Route 22 Union



Bowcraft



Olympic Park



Sonny & Cher and Twiggy

The Bernardville News
Observer-Tribune
Echoes-Sentinel
West Morris Reporter
Hunterdon Review
Madison Eagle

Chatham Courier
Florham Park Eagle
Hanover Eagle
Morris NewsBee
The Citizen

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39 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE AT LONG HILL AUTO

Long Hill Auto Service Center opened its doors in 1986. While many aspects of the business of repairing and maintaining automobiles has drastically changed over the years, a few things have stayed the same. “The first thing we try to do is to make it easy for people to get their repairs done. We know that it’s not an easy thing to do to drop off your car and be without it,” says owner Bob Arlotta. “Our main priority is to make it easy for people to get their repairs done. We try to make it as pain-free as it can be.” Whether it’s picking up or dropping off a vehicle at an owner’s home, or giving customers a lift to their destination, Arlotta says the shop’s success owes much to its longtime commitment to its customers. The shop stays open 12 hours per day, six days a week, in an effort to give customers as much scheduling flexibility

as possible. And great customer service is just the starting point. In the past, the auto repair industry focused mainly on mechanics who were well-versed in mechanical issues, such as brakes and tires. But as automobiles became increasingly reliant on electronics, computers and technology, Long Hill Auto has made a commitment to staying up-to-date on the latest technology and information, with mandatory monthly training sessions for all its employees. The shop’s focus on its surrounding community has also helped to establish its reputation as a friendly and reliable business. Long Hill Auto sponsors and participates in many community events and activities, including acting as a food collection site for the Shrine of St. Joseph Food Drive and a variety of other Long Hill Chamber of Commerce events and programs.

The business is very involved in Millington Downtown Day, donating its facility, electricity, water and parking lot space for the popular annual community gathering. In the past, the business has also hosted local Girl Scouts working towards earning their Car Care Badges. Shop employees taught the girls how to change a tire, fix a flat, jump start a dead car battery and more. A free air pump and free car vacuum are available in front of the shop for anyone who needs them. In addition, smart car drivers running low on a charge can pull up and plug in at no cost. “We try to please everybody as much as we can. I think that goes a long way,” Arlotta said. Long Hill Auto Service Center is located at 1905 Long Hill Road, in Millington. Reach them at longhillauto@aol.com or (908) 647-7984 or visit longhillauto.com.

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VNA ADDRESSES HOME CARE QUESTIONS

Consumers with home care needs are concerned about affordability and require assistance determining what benefits are available to them to under Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance plans, and grant subsidized programs based on inquiries received by the Visiting Nurse Association of Northern NJ (VNA) via its vnannj.org “Contact US” page and 1-800-WE VISIT.

“Our organization serves as a safety net for those who aren’t sure where to turn for help. We’re able to reassure many by confirming their eligibility and addressing other concerns,” said Faith Scott, MPH, MBA, President and Chief Executive Officer of Visiting Nurse Association of Northern NJ. “Often, we can expedite enrollment by coordinating with a physician or insurance provider or guiding someone through the application process for grant-funded services.”

Grant-Funded Services For Those Who Qualify

As the sole designated administrator for the NJ Statewide Respite Care Program in Morris, Sussex, Somerset, and Passaic Counties and a participant in other county and private grant programs, VNA is empowered to screen seniors and family caregivers for eligibility. Those who qualify may receive free or reduced-cost help with essential, non-medical tasks or caregiver respites, counseling, or training.

About VNA

The Visiting Nurse Association of Northern NJ (VNA), vnannj.org, is a leading nonprofit provider of comprehensive home health care with a distinguished tradition of caring. VNA serves qualified patients of all ages who are homebound due to serious illnesses or medical events, elderly residents who choose to age in place, and their family caregivers. VNA is licensed by the New Jersey Department of Health and is a nationally recognized Community Health Accreditation Partner (CHAP) provider.

Top Home Health Care Questions???

ELIGIBILITY

Do I or a loved one meet eligibility requirements under Medicare/my plan?

COSTS

Will I have any co-pay charges?
What is covered under Medicare/my plan?

FREE SERVICES

Is any assistance available at no charge for seniors & family caregivers?

PROVIDER CHOICE

Can I pick my provider under Medicare/my plan?

CREDENTIALS

Is my provider licensed and accredited?
Are staff background checks performed?

For answers to home care questions and personalized assistance, call 1-800-WE VISIT or request a free, no obligation consultation at vnannj.org.

A trusted resource



VNA of Northern New Jersey introduced visiting nursing to this region in 1898 when Anna B. Hillock, our very first nurse, traveled local dirt roads on a bicycle. Since then, we’ve been at the forefront of every

major home care breakthrough. In fact, we now offer comprehensive home care and hospice solutions. Our distinguished tradition of service is upheld each day when team members with diverse skills deliver comfort and encouragement to residents of more than 140 municipalities across six counties.

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Comprehensive Home Care Solutions

- Skilled Nursing
- Hospice & Palliative Care
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- Registered Dietitians



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VNA | 125 years of caring
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A Proud Heritage of Dignity and Respect

Named for the hills upon which our grounds and facilities are nestled, Somerset Hills Memorial Park and Mausoleum is a not-for-profit organization that provides all faiths and cultures with a place of comfort, peace and reflection during the most difficult time. Somerset Hills is home to a beautifully landscaped, 75-acre memorial park, elegant mausoleum, chapel, Veterans Memorial, urn gardens, and modern crematory. You have the flexibility to create and customize your services based on your wishes and budget.

Founded in 1930, Somerset Hills Memorial Park and Mausoleum merged with Fairmount Cemetery of Newark in 1986. Many of the families who have chosen Somerset Hills as their final resting place have a history with us that goes back generations.

The board of managers of Fairmount Cemetery had the foresight to encourage private endowments as far back as the 1800s. Legally required contributions from the fees charged for various services have been added to these endowments as part of our Maintenance and Preservation Fund. That means we have the financial resources to maintain and enhance our grounds and facilities, and you and your loved ones will always have a welcoming, dignified environment for future generations to visit. Our board of managers ensures that these dollars are invested wisely.



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Celebrates 90th Anniversary

3 Generations, 4 Names, 5 Locations



Metropolitan Window Fashions, NJ Largest Window Covering retailer, is celebrating their 90th anniversary.

Metropolitan currently has five locations, with their flagship showroom in Green Brook, sharing space with their sister company - Fabricland. They have additional locations in Paramus, Livingston, Lebanon and Branchville. Metropolitan has gone through several name changes over the years. Third generation owner Bruce Heyman was asked about this recently. “My grandfather was an orphaned immigrant who started this business in 1934. He called the company Chain Decorators for the ‘chain’ of stores he planned to open. Eventually, he had stores in Plainfield, Westfield and Somerville. He changed the name to Highway Mill End in the 1950’s when he moved out to the highway. My father changed the name to Fabricland during the home sewing boom of the 1960’s. I rebranded as Metropolitan Window Fashions in 2004 as our business swung back to our original focus of custom draperies, shades, blinds and reupholstery.”

To promote the anniversary, you can enter to win a \$5,000 Hunter Douglas Gift Certificate-visit windowfashions.com to enter. In addition, Metropolitan is producing a video series called 90 for 90, where they tell their family business story in 90 short videos on Facebook and Instagram.

Going on now until the end of the year is their big **90th Anniversary Sale** with special discounts on custom draperies, reupholstery, Hunter Douglas motorized shades and more. Call for a free in-home decorating consultation at 877-722-1100 or visit windowfashions.com for locations and hours.



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Livingston - Lebanon

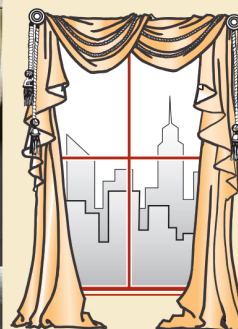
Sparta - Branchville

Madison - Basking Ridge

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To request an appointment, call or visit us at windowfashions.com

IN TOUCH WITH STUDENTS, IN TUNE WITH LEARNING

Professor Kathleen Calderone is living her childhood dream: teaching music!

"It wasn't a choice, it's a calling. This made my life very easy, because I always knew where I was going – never wanted to do anything else," said Calderone of Hanover. Calderone has an extensive background in music and education: She holds degrees and certifications in music education, is pursuing her doctoral degree, and is an adjunct professor at Kean University in Union.

Holistic Learning

In 1975, she opened the Calderone School of Music, which has been located in East Hanover since 1979. Between the East Hanover location and the school's second location in Springfield, the Calderone School of Music serves about 2,000 students of all ages, abilities and musical disciplines.

Because the music school is "strictly an educational institution," with the exception of its child Kindermusik Program, prospective students must first apply to the school and be tested for musical ability before being accepted. When accepting a child, Calderone said she wants to be sure the child is ready for the challenge and wants to study music and is not forced to study music.

"I'm looking for the whole child to be ready, if you think about it, it's holistic learning. Music demands the use of every intelligence and every cognitive ability the human possesses," she said.

One of the truly unique aspects of the Calderone School

of Music is that it is comprised of five divisions: Kindermusik, Suzuki Strings, Private Lessons, College Preparatory, and Professional Development (for music teachers).

Through Kindermusik – an international program offered through the Calderone School – music classes are offered to children up to age 7. The Calderone School is considered a "Maestro" Kindermusik school, a level the international music company gives to the top 100 Kindermusik schools in the world.

Suzuki Strings is for violin students who aren't yet ready for private lessons.

Private lessons are offered to accepted students of all ages and abilities, in varied instruments and voice. The College Preparatory division is more of an intense program, preparing high school students to get accepted into a music college and to earn a music degree.

The Professional Development division is for professional musicians and those who already have a degree in music, to hone their skills in a particular area or to maintain their teaching licenses.

Pedagogy is at the heart of music education at the Calderone School of Music. It's not just about banging on an instrument or taking what Calderone refers to as "entertainment lessons" — it's about that holistic music education Calderone is so committed to. Every student who walks through the doors of the Calderone School of Music receives a core curriculum that includes music theory,

music history and ear training, regardless of the instrument being studied.

Calderone said her vision for the school is "to provide students with an excellent, comprehensive music education." Her philosophy is to apply that vision to the individual student and those ideals, she said, are embodied in the school motto: "The professional school that meets the needs of the individual student."

Music Needs Met

The music school's staff is made up of 45 full-time and part-time teachers, all of whom hold degrees in music and many of whom are college music professors.

Divina Arpino, 40, of Boonton Township, has a daughter who graduated Calderone School of Music and has two children enrolled in the school. Arpino, who until recently lived in Florham Park, has a degree in music and used to play the saxophone. Arpino said she likes the flexibility of what the Calderone School offers, as well as the quality of teaching.

"It lends itself well to a whole music picture," Arpino said. "Everything for me and my children has been wonderful...we are all getting our music needs met here – equally wonderful for kids as well as adults."

The Calderone School of Music is located at: 34 Ridgedale Avenue, East Hanover, and can be reached by calling (973) 428-0405; and at 276 Morris Avenue, Springfield, and can be reached by calling (973) 467-4688.

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EST. 1975

DEEP ROOTS, TRUST KEEP MARK'S AUTO SERVICE MOTORING FOR 36-PLUS YEARS

Spending 36 years in a town is more than enough time to establish some pretty deep roots there, even if you're in the business of helping people stay on the road.

Still, Mark's Auto Service and its owner, Mark Ierubino, have made themselves a part of the community in ways that go above and beyond putting in a good day's work at the shop.

Parents of Long Hill's Little League baseball players know them as a sponsor of the local team for more than 14 years. Mark himself spent decades as a volunteer firefighter at local companies in Stirling and even as the chief of the Basking Ridge department for five years.

All that time in one place has given Mark and his team a good view of how the town, and their customers' needs, have changed. The cars they're working on now are a far cry from what they were 36 years ago, so traveling around the country to get the latest training is a must for them to keep up with the times.

"What's new, what can they show

us, the computer controls, pattern failures," says Ierubino. "That helps us. We're dealing with some really smart guys now."

All that continuing education has paid off, earning Mark's Auto Service the distinction of being an ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) Certified business.

Mark and his son, Nicholas, have also been licensed as state approved emissions repair technicians.

"We're setting up a labcope, we watch waveforms, we watch data. It's not going out and playing with a screwdriver," Mark says.

Mark's Auto Service is a great local example of how a business can settle down in one spot while keeping pace with the changes around them.

Mark's Auto Service is located at 834 Valley Road in Gillette and can be reached at

(908) 647-7276. For more information or to schedule a service appointment, visit them online at www.Marksauto.com.

FIND YOUR VINTAGE TREASURES AT HAPPINEST

For eight years, HappiNest Antiques has taken its patrons back in time with a treasure trove of porcelains, collector's items, and ornate tchotchkes.

The cozy shop in Whitehouse Station specializes in vintage and antique seasonal gifts and accessories, changing its decor with each season. Halloween, Thanks-giving, Christmas, Easter, spring, summer and fall are each highlighted throughout the year.

After retiring from a career at Johnson & Johnson in 2016, shop owner Maryann McKean decided to "reinvent herself."

It was McKean's mother, Janet, who sparked her love for antiques when she was growing up. She drew upon that passion when she retired and ventured to start her own business.

"I worked for a full year with my daughter Kathryn, locating a brick-and-mortar building and finding the perfect pieces to start my business," McKean said.

HappiNest's shelves are stocked with antique and vintage seasonal and holiday items, antique furniture and accessories, crocks and jugs, pewter, advertising tins, and so much

more.

"My mother is one of my best 'pickers' and she and Kathryn continue to help me run the shop and find new merchandise," McKean said. "Kathryn also handles all my marketing and advertising needs. Thank God for family."

Originally, McKean carried more gifts and accessories from local artists and primitive reproducers. Over time, she found that antiques and vintage pieces are more marketable.

The shop has also become tight knit with the local community, supporting the Three Bridges Volunteer Fire Company.

What has stayed the same? HappiNest continues to offer one-of-a-kind, unusual antique and vintage pieces that are hard to come by in other antique shops.

All are invited to come in, say hello and browse the shop. There is always a great selection of antique and vintage pieces at affordable prices, and new items are added daily.

To learn more, visit the shop at 406 Route 22 West, Whitehouse Station; see www.happinestantiques.com; or contact info@happinestantiques.com or (908) 823-4946.



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2026 PUBLICATION DATES

February 26 • April 16 • June 11 • September 17 • December 3

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

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PH: 908-766-3900, ext. 230 • Email: jodonnell@newjerseyhills.com

HEARTSTRINGS: VINTAGE TREASURES, JEWELRY, FURNISHINGS AND MORE

With an air of whimsy and a unique artistic vibe, HeartStrings, located at 10 Main Street in Clinton, features an eclectic mix of jewelry, gifts, women's and children's apparel, vintage items and everything "magical." In 1976, Carol Beder opened her store on Main Street, which was then called "The Quaker Mouse." She moved three more times, at which point she changed the name of her store to HeartStrings. In 2003, a fire claimed HeartStrings and two other buildings. Within two months, Carol reopened HeartStrings on East Main Street until the other building was rebuilt. She moved back to Main Street in 2004. The merchants and community rallied around as she started once again, which made her realize how important the business and Clinton was to her. Carol has

been a member of The Clinton Guild since 1976, working with the other merchants to bring numerous festivities to town, which has made Clinton what it is today. "My journey has been amazing, raising a family, and also building one in Clinton," she said. "There really is nowhere else I would want to have a shop or live. Clinton is a very special place." Stop by 10 Main Street Clinton and browse HeartStrings' unique treasures or visit them online at www.heartstringslifestyle.net. HeartStrings is open seven days a week, with later hours on Thursdays. For more information, call (908)735-4020.



CAROL
BEDER

Carol Beder's *HeartStrings* a lifestyle

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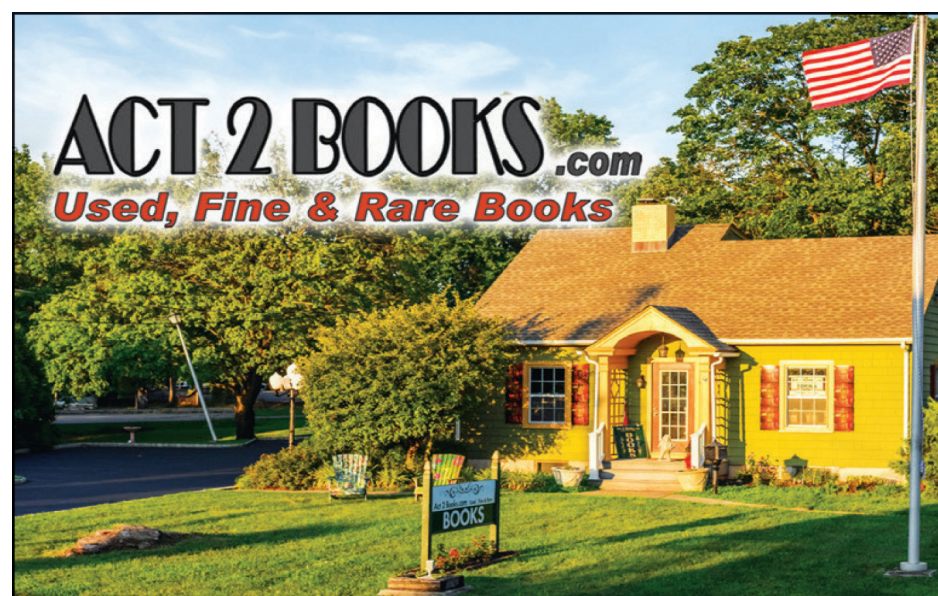


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REUTHER MATERIAL BUILDS 98 YEARS OF TRUST

Reuther Material Company was incorporated in 1927 in Edgewater by Andrew Reuther and his two brothers before being passed down to his children, Andrew Reuther and Margaret Diehl.

Today, the longtime North Bergen company is still owned and operated by third- and fourth-generation family members. In April 2021, Reuther opened their second location in the Succasunna section of Roxbury Township after acquiring R.P. Smith & Son.

With nearly a century of experience, Reuther manufactures, blocks, sells and delivers the very best in masonry materials.

Reuther Material has been a mainstay in the building industry for 96 years. This family-owned and operated company has created a legacy brand for its customers, partners, and employees — serving Northern and Central New Jersey as well as the five boroughs of New York City.

The company now has two locations, the original in North Bergen and the new location at 155 Main St., Succasun-

na.

Aside from a wide array of product offerings and great prices, the Reuther team focuses on providing its customers with value-added services, including consultative project management support, value engineering specific to projects, on-time delivery enhanced by their large fleet of trucks, and ongoing education and support.

One way the business has changed over the century is Reuther now works toward selling more sustainable building materials.

What has stayed the same? Reuther has always believed in a hard work ethic and in building relationships with its customers.

Building on its longtime commitment to the community in North Bergen, Reuther now supports local sports teams and churches in the Roxbury area as well.

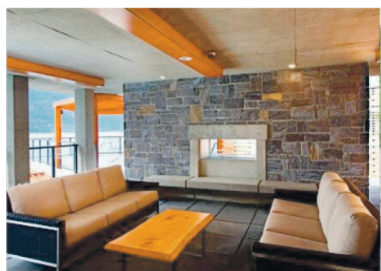
To learn more, stop by the Succasunna or North Bergen locations, visit www.reuthermaterial.com or contact (973) 584-4063 or info@reuthermaterial.com.



Reuther Material still operates out of its nearly century-old home on Tonnelle Avenue in North Bergen, but customers can also find them today on Main Street in Succasunna.



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