The Free Weekly PRESS
Take One!
Serving the Slate Belt in Pennsylvania and Warren, Sussex and Hunterdon Counties in New Jersey
LLC
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November 12, 2026 GOD BLESS AMERICA & OUR VETERANS Vol. 53, No. 16



With The Utmost Honor & Respect We Thank Our Veterans For The Sacrifices They Made To Protect The Freedoms Of Our Great Nation! To The Men & Women Who Served Our Country, And Those Who Continue To Serve, We Thank You!

A very special thank you goes out to our very own Veteran, Dale Young!

VETERAN'S DAY IS NOVEMBER 11TH, 2026



OUR MAILING ADDRESS IS

The Free Weekly Press
PO Box 606,
Bangor, PA, 18013

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North Warren Wins 6-0 Over Boonton in the NJSIAA Section 1, Group 1, First Round



North Warren took on Boonton in the 2026 Boys Soccer NJSIAA Section 1, Group 1 Tournament, First Round on November 4th. North Warren won 6 to 0. Photos can be found on page 3. Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

Wind Gap Legion Hosts Free Veterans Day Luncheon



Wind Gap Legion hosted a free lunch for veterans and guests on November 7th. Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

PHOTOS & VIDEOS FROM VETERAN'S DAY SERVICES & EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR FACEBOOK: THE PRESS NEWS ONLINE!

Roseto Legion Honors Local Veterans



Roseto Legion honored local Veterans with a Veteran's Day Service on November 7th. Photos from local Veteran's Day Service start on page 4. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press.







The Annual "Great Slate Belt Trivia Contest" will take place on Sunday, December 13th, at 2:00 PM at the Slate Belt Heritage Center, located at 30 North 1st Street, Bangor, PA. Attendees can come as a team of four or individually to be placed on a team. Bring your knowledge of Slate Belt history and be prepared to laugh while learning tidbits you may or may not know about the Slate Belt. Marc (Ken Jennings) Blau will return as the emcee for an afternoon of local history and entertainment. Admission is free, and refreshments will be served. For additional information, please contact Karen Brewer at 484-894-5661.

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Please take the time to support the businesses who advertise in this newspaper. Shop Local!
Visit our website for a list of drop-off locations!

New to the Blue Mountain Community Library

Blue Mountain Community Library News:
The library is located at 216 S. Robinson Ave. in Pen Argyl. Open hours are Monday-Saturday 10am-12pm and Monday and Thursday 6-8pm. Questions? Call 610-863-3029 or email info@bmcl.org.

Our Christmas tree ornament fundraiser is underway. For a $5 donation, hang an ornament in honor or memory of a loved one or pet on our Christmas tree.

Our special collection of Christmas-themed books is now available for checkout.

Fall Preschool Storytime will meet the first and third Wedne days of each month: Nov. 18 at 11am and Dec. 2 and 16 at 10:30am. Participants are required to register for each storytime they plan to attend; send child's name, birthdate, parent/guardian's name, and phone number to info@bmcl.org, or provide this info at the library or via 610-863-3029.
Deadline is Monday two days prior to each storytime. Spots are limited.

The adult book discussion group will not meet in December.
Grades 4-6, register today for a winter program with 4-H: Wed., Nov. 18 at 5:30pm - DiNovember! Spots are limited but still available. Send child's name, birthdate, parent/guardian's name, and phone number to info@bmcl.org, or provide this info at the library or via 610-863-3029.
Order shirts and sweatshirts with the BMCL logo and get them in time for Christmas! Sizes adult S-XXXL are available in light gray or medium blue, with the BMCL logo in dark blue on the left chest. Order forms are available at the library now through Nov. 20 at noon. Samples are available now.

New to the circulating collection:
Adult fiction: Peck & Peck (Bonnie Garmus); Wolf Hour (Jo Nesbo); The Witch (Freida McFadden); The Staircase in the Woods (Chuck Wendig); Partita (Barbara Kingsolver); Music against the Night (Yiyun Li); Miss Wolcott's Ghost (Louise Penny); Go Gentle (Maria Semple); Chain Reaction (Lee Child)

Adult nonfiction: 1,001 Natural Wonders You Must See before You Die (Michael Bright); New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey: 50 Hikes with Kids (Wendy Gorton); On the Hippie Trail (Rick Steves); Before It's Gone (Jonathan Vigliotti); Imminent (Luis Elizondo); The Rush (Nathaniel Philbrick); Half Baked Harvest (Tieghan Gerard); Cooking from the Spirit (Tabitha Brown); Good Energy (Casey Means); The War on Warriors (Pete Hegseth)

Large print: The Unknown (Riley Sager); The Secret of Secrets (Dan Brown); Lost and Found in Paris (Lian Dolan)

YA fiction: Hocus Pocus and the All-New Sequel (A.W. Jantha); We Burned So Bright (T.J. Klune); A Test of Courage (Justina Ireland); The Parliament (Aimee Pokwatka)

YA nonfiction: The Book of Totally Irresponsible Science (Sean Connolly); Days of Infamy (Lawrence Goldstone)

Juvenile fiction: The Bicycle Thief (Franklin W. Dixon); Mrs. Barr Has Gone Too Far! (Dan Gutman); Bo's Magical New Friend (Rebecca Elliott); Bo and the Dragon-Pup (Rebecca Elliott); The Last Kids on Earth and the Nightmare King (Max Brallier); My Big Fat Zombie Goldfish: The Sequel (Mo O'Hara); Oddbird (Derek Desierto); The Good Egg (Jory John); Tiny T. Rex and the Very Dark Dark (Jonathan Stutzman); Creepy Crayon! (Aaron Reynolds); Paw Patrol 5-Minute Stories Collection (Nickelodeon); 5-Minute Princess Stories (Disney); I Am a Tornado (Drew Beckmeyer); Where's Will? (Anna Claybourne)

Juvenile nonfiction: The Girl Who Thought in Pictures (Julia Finley Mosca); Who Would Win? Wild Warriors (Jerry Pallotta); The Ultimate Science Cookbook for Kids (Paige Towler); 101 Animal Babies (Melvin Berger); Little Kids First Big Book of Space (Catherine D. Hughes); On the Train (Carron Brown); It's Disgusting and We Ate It! (James Solheim); Dinosaurs (Lisa Regan); Young Naturalist's Handbook Insect-lo-pedia (Matthew Reinhart); Discover the Human Body (Linda Calabresi); I Spy Christmas (Jean Marzollo)

North Warren (6) vs Boonton (0) Boys Soccer NJSIAA Section 1, Group 1 Tournament, First Round

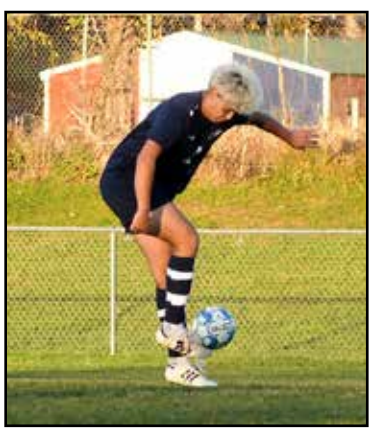








Photos & Videos Can Be Found On Our Facebook: The Press News Online





Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

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Photos by Dale Young/ The Free Weekly Press





Join Us at Mt. Bethel Diner, Thanksgiving Day:

Thursday, November 26th, from 6am-8pm

Happy Thanksgiving

Specials Include:

Roast Turkey.....$20

Baked Ham w/ Pineapple....$20

Prime Rib.....$25.99

Above Entrees Include a choice of 2 vegetables, soup or salad, and cake

Serving Breakfast Lunch & Dinner

Regular Menu Available

2600 N. Delaware Dr., Mt. Bethel

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Hours: M, W-Sun: 6am-9pm; Tuesday: 6am-2pm

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ROSETO AMERICAN LEGION POST 750 VETERANS DAY SERVICE



















Photos by Dale Young/
The Free Weekly Press









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CLOSED MONDAY

BANGOR ELKS VETERANS BREAKFAST





Photos & Videos Can Be Found On Our Facebook: The Press News Online















Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press









Project Self-Sufficiency Hosts Unique Event for Expectant and New Parents

Pediatrician Dr. Christian Canzoniero will headline a special Pregnancy & Infancy Summit at Project Self-Sufficiency, Thursday, November 19th, 10:00 a.m. – noon. This unique event will spotlight critical issues faced by expectant and new parents during pregnancy and through a child's early years; free baby items, valuable prizes, and giveaways will also be offered to attendees. Free and reduced cost activities for families and other topics related to early childhood health, safety and education will also be explored. Lunch will be provided; childcare is available upon request. Photographer Julian Huarte will take professional photos of parents and children.

"The Pregnancy & Infancy Summit invites expectant parents and mothers and fathers of young children to gain valuable information about pregnancy and child development, along with expert advice about health and wellness," explains Deborah Berry-Toon, Chief Executive Officer of Project Self-Sufficiency. "We are excited to be able to offer an opportunity for these families to gain the information and resources they need to become successful parents."



In addition to pediatrician Dr. Christian Canzionero, representatives from numerous organizations will be in attendance including Project Self-Sufficiency's Nurse Family Partnership team; the Center for Family Services; DASI; DAWN Center for Independent Living, Early Intervention Program; Family Connects NJ, Universal Home Visitation program; Ginnie's House; Partnership for Maternal Child Health; Safe Kids Northern New Jersey; SIDS Center of New Jersey; Sussex County Library; Wellness Center Pediatrics; Zufall Health Center; and others. Several agencies will also offer brief presentations about their services.

The Pregnancy & Infancy Summit supplements Project Self-Sufficiency's robust programs for pregnant women and parents of young children, including home visitation programs, Baby Beginnings events, Mommy Parties, and Parent Cafes. To register for the Pregnancy & Infancy Summit, to discuss your parenting needs, or to find out more about other programs and services available at Project Self-Sufficiency, call 973-940-3500.

Project Self-Sufficiency is a non-profit organization located in semi-rural northwestern New Jersey which has assisted low-income families along the path to economic self-sufficiency since 1986. The agency is dedicated to empowering individuals and families to achieve economic independence and self-reliance, providing a safe and inclusive environment that fosters growth, learning, and opportunity. Services include career guidance and assessment, computer classes, high school diploma instruction, parenting workshops, childcare, legal assistance and education, help with emergency basic needs such as clothing and food, health education, support groups, life skills classes, family activities, home visitation for pregnant women and new parents, and more. For more information, visit www.projectselfsufficiency.org or call 973-940-3500.

Boscola Announces $2,199,684 PIDA Loans to Bethlehem Manufacturer

Senator Lisa Boscola (D-Lehigh/Northampton) announced today that MillPress Real Estate Holdings LLC, a Bethlehem business, was approved for two low interest loans totaling $2,199,684 by the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA) Board that will create 12 new, full-time jobs within three years and retain 21 additional full-time positions.

"MillPress Imports is well known for its olive oil and vinegar that has been produced at its current site in Bethlehem since 2015 and this state investment will allow them to expand into a new facility in LVIP VII to create additional manufacturing jobs helping to further expand our region's economy," Boscola stated. "PIDA is one of Pennsylvania's most successful economic development programs and this loan will also allow MillPress Imports to create and retain 33 jobs."

PIDA financing will assist MillPress Real Estate Holdings LLC in the acquisition of land and a build-to-suit facility on a 5.06-acre lot located at 1550 Spillman Drive in Bethlehem within Lehigh Valley Industrial Park VII. That site will be the location of a 49,920-square-foot facility that will house MillPress Imports LLC. In addition, the funding will be used to purchase equipment including a complete bottling line with an integrated conveyor system capable of bottling, filling, packaging, labeling, and sealing products. The total project cost is $12,811,868.

MillPress Real Estate Holdings was approved for two PIDA loans through the Lehigh Valley Economic Investment Corporation, a 15-year, $2,000,000 loan at a 5.50% fixed interest rate and a 5-year, $199,684 loan at a 5.50% interest rate. With the goal of creating and retaining full-time jobs, PIDA offers low interest loans and lines of credit to Pennsylvania businesses. For more information about PIDA and other DCED initiatives, visit dced.pa.gov.









NJ Historic Trust Supports Restoration of Moravian Crusen House in Hope, NJ


The Moravian Stone Crusen House • Hope, New Jersey


Crusen House • Rotted Windowsill


Crusen House • Fireplace

The New Jersey Historic Trust has recommended Help Our Preservation Effort (H.O.P.E.) for a grant from the Preserve New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund, for restoration work on the Crusen House, in the Historic District of Hope, NJ. H.O.P.E. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the architecture and Moravian heritage of the village of Hope. The grant would provide funding to restore all of the windows in the Crusen House and replace or restore the building's four exterior doors.

In April 2025, H.O.P.E. purchased the Crusen House, a limestone building constructed by the Moravians c. 1780, from First Hope Bank. According to H.O.P.E.'s President, Bob May, "The primary aspects of a structure's exterior appearance include roof, windows and doors, and wall material. Crusen's roof was replaced in 2010 and has fortunately protected the house to a great extent. The exterior walls are limestone and, although in need of repointing, are currently watertight. The windows and the front and side doors are the most important elements in need of restoration at this time. Restoring them to their original 18th-century appearance will dramatically change the exterior of the house."

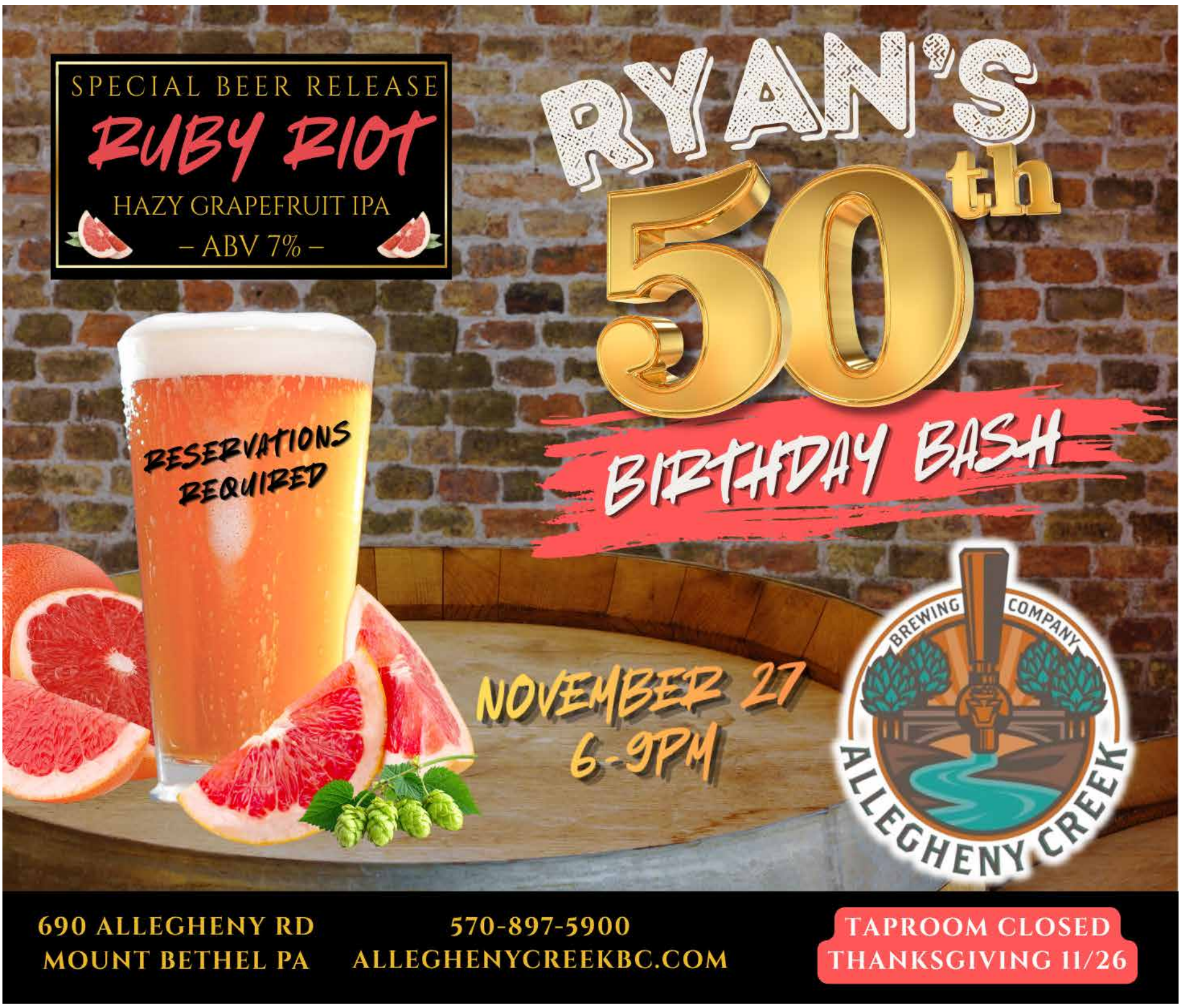
Now, 240 years old, some of the window frames and sills of the Crusen House have rotted. Some of the windows were replaced in the 1800s to "modernize" the building's front façade and all of the exterior doors have been replaced over time. The restoration will include replacing all rotted sills, having window sashes milled to fit original openings and having exterior doors made to replicate what would have been on the house 240 years ago.

Once restoration is completed, H.O.P.E. plans to open the Crusen House as a house museum at its cellar and first-floor levels. The cellar was used as a summer kitchen and contains a large cooking fireplace with adjoining bake oven. The cellar floor is comprised of large pieces of slate. A storage room adjoins the cellar kitchen and there is another room the original use of which is yet to be determined. The first floor of the Crusen House includes the winter kitchen, a sleeping room and parlor. The second floor of the structure was used as a sleeping loft; however, that space will become H.O.P.E.'s office and storage for its archives.

The award must be authorized by the Garden State Preservation Trust and approved by the NJ State Legislature before any funds can be disbursed. With previous support from the NJ Historic Trust, H.O.P.E. has engaged consultants to prepare a Preservation Plan and conduct a Phase I Archeological Survey of the Crusen property. H.O.P.E. also benefits from strong community involvement, with many volunteers donating expertise and labor for fundraising events. Pete Peterson, H.O.P.E.'s Vice President and Treasurer, commented: "In 2025, over 20 H.O.P.E. volunteers assisted with two fund-raising dinners, which raised $13,000 to support the restoration of the Crusen House."

H.O.P.E. was founded in 1982 and restored the Long House in Hope with financial support from the NJ Historic Trust, the Warren County Municipal and Charitable Conservancy Trust, the Kirby Foundation, and the New Jersey Cultural Trust.

Anyone interested in financially supporting H.O.P.E. and the restoring of the Crusen House can make a donation to: H.O.P.E., P.O. Box 181, Hope, NJ 07844. Membership applications can also be obtained online at https://www.hopepreservation.org or by emailing: info@hopepreservation.org



Gathering for Thanksgiving? Help Keep Flu Off the Guest List



(NAPSI)—With 74% of Americans planning to gather with family and friends for Thanksgiving this year, according to Pew Research Center, there's one important step to take before getting together: Get a flu shot.

Influenza (flu) is a common, highly contagious respiratory illness, and hundreds of thousands of Americans are hospitalized with it every year.

Signs you have the flu:

Symptoms often appear suddenly, and may include cough, fatigue, fever, headache, body aches, runny or stuffy nose, sore throat and sometimes vomiting or diarrhea.

What to do:

Getting a flu shot is the best way to help protect yourself and your family. The vaccine is updated annually, and because it takes about two weeks to build protection, it's important to get vaccinated before your holiday gatherings.

In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

If you're sick, limit contact with others. Feeling symptoms? At participating CVS Pharmacy locations in states where pharmacists are authorized to test and treat flu, eligible patients can be tested and assessed for antiviral treatment. MinuteClinic offers testing at all clinic locations for eligible patients.

Who should get the vaccine:

Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine, with rare exceptions. It's especially important for adults 65+, children younger than 5, pregnant women and people with certain medical conditions.

How to get the vaccine:

You can make appointments for up to four people at once by visiting CVS.com, MinuteClinic.com or via the CVS Health app—or you can walk into locations nationwide.



New to the Bangor Public Library

39 S Main St, Bangor, PA 18013

Phone: (610) 588-4136

Adult Fiction:

Candy Apple Kisses by Amy Clipston; A Date With Death by Kelly Creagh; Dungeon Crawler Carl: The Graphic Novel Volume 2 by Matt Dinniman; Wild Wicked Mate by Lurie Gilmore; The Many Private Lives of Missy Cooke: A Novel by Jane Green; The Midnight Guests by Alex Hay; Bound and Unbound by Ali Hazelwood; NYPD Red 8: The 11:59 Bomber by Marshall Karp; Whale Harbor: A Novel by Mary Beth Keane; The Piano Teacher of Montparnasse by Heather Morris; The Family Cross by James Patterson; Miss Wolcott's Ghost by Louise Penny; The Cutting Garden by Darcy Van Poelgeest; Look What the Cat Dragged In: A Novel b Jason Rekulak; The Washwoman at the River's End by Megan Shade; Something is Killing the Children: Hope is a Knife: A Novel by James Tynion, IV; Strange Pictures 2 by Uketsu

Adult Non Fiction:

Guinness World Records 2027; Essential Guide to Plant Propagation: Techniques and Know-How for Propagating All Types of Plants, Indoors and Out by American Horticultural Society; Offseason: Where to Travel Year-Round Without the Crowds by Sarah Baxier; For My Sister Nicole: Love Shouldn't Hurt: What to Know about Domestic Violence by Denise Brown; In the Shadow of Eight: Surviving the Reality of My Childhood by Collin Gosselin; Homemade by Nara Aziza Smith; The New Dark Ages: The Death of Reading and the Dawn of the Post-Literate Society by James Morriott

Large Print Adult Fiction:

Love You More: A Novel by Emily Giffin; Hollow Bones: A Novel by Jodi Picoult

Easy Fiction:

Aliens; This Book is Bursting with Monsters by Christina Dorner; Trick or Treat by Conor Rawson; Peekaboo: Party by Camilla Reid; Peekaboo: Dinosaur by Camilla Reid; Christmas: A Big Hedgehog and Little Hedgehog Adventure by Britta Teckentrup

Junior Fiction:

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Fight or Flight: Book 21 by Jeff Kinney

Junior Non Fiction:

Animals: A Visual Encyclopedia

Young Adult Non Fiction:

An Illustrated History of Magic by Adam Allsuch Boardman

Garden Dilemmas? Ask Mary?



Mary E. Stone
Stone Associates
Landscape Design
& Consulting,
Blairstown, NJ

Hello fellow readers,

Don't you love seeing bird nests revealed when leaves fall from trees and shrubs? Well, to my amazement, the oversized Doublefile Viburnum outside my kitchen window revealed a magnificent gray paper nest hidden among its branches. Baldfaced hornets had made themselves at home! Looking closely, you can see the nest's intricate, layered patterns, like a handmade gray piñata. I never imagined such artistry was unfolding outside my window.

Birds nested in that same shrub this summer, too. I wonder how they and the hornets coexisted, or whether their nesting seasons overlapped.

I didn't realize until digging into learning more about the baldfaced hornet (Dolichovespula maculata) that it's a yellowjacket, often called an aerial yellowjacket. Penn State Extension explains that these native insects aren't true hornets. The only true hornet in our region is the European hornet, introduced accidentally.

Unlike the familiar yellow-and-black yellowjackets, which often nest underground, baldfaced hornets build football-shaped nests in trees, shrubs, and sometimes on buildings. They are black with ivory-white markings on their faces, legs, thorax (the middle body section), and abdomens. They're about half to three-quarters of an inch long; the queens are larger.

Each spring, a newly mated queen emerges from her winter shelter beneath bark, in hollow trees, or other protected places. What a fascinating little builder! She chews weathered wood, mixing it with saliva to make a papery paste, builds a few brood cells, lays eggs, and feeds the larvae mashed-up insects. Once her daughters mature, they take over nest building, hunting, feeding, and defense.





The colony may grow to three or four hundred workers, and the nest can be 24 inches high and 18 inches wide. Each new layer expands the nursery while the outer shell protects its inhabitants from weather. And protecting it, they do!

I recall being stung by two hornets when I was a kid tending my first garden of marigolds—Mary's Gold, I called them. I can see me now, lying on my stomach, kicking my legs to get them to stop. And they didn't stop. Unlike honeybees, these wasps can sting multiple times. Fortunately, they're generally not aggressive away from their nest.

Good thing I never got to pruning that oversized viburnum I adore! It was my dear Sara's favorite nap spot long ago. An angel sculpture sits there now with two tennis balls formerly in play. Sara was a serious ball-aholic, unlike my rescues Ellie and Jolee, though I giggle whenever they'd grab a ball for a toss or two.



I had planted the Doublefile Viburnum eight feet from the house, allowing room for its mature spread. But nature had other plans. Or Sara's mojo has something to do with it being supersized. So, I limbed it up into a small tree with shade-loving perennials and ferns below.

Baldfaced hornets are beneficial garden guests. They hunt flies, caterpillars, and other insects to feed their young, and visit flowers for nectar, providing some pollination. Unless a nest is near a doorway, frequently used path, or garden work area—or someone has a sting allergy—they are best left undisturbed. Seek professional help when removal is necessary.

As freezing weather arrives, the workers and original queen die. Only newly mated queens survive elsewhere, and the old nest is never reused. Woodpeckers may tear into it seeking remaining larvae.

After sustained freezing weather, an abandoned nest can even become a dramatic addition to a large floral arrangement. I once admired one taking center stage among cut flowers in a historic inn's lobby. If you ever collect one, be certain the colony is inactive, and cut the supporting branches carefully; the paper is delicate.

What an extraordinary amount of work for a home lasting only one season. Yet it fulfilled its purpose: sheltering one generation so another could begin again. The astonishing structure, hidden all summer among my viburnum's leaves, is a beautiful reminder of how much life happens around us without our realizing it.

Garden Dilemmas? AskMaryStone.com or tune in on your favorite Podcast App.

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Veterans Stand Down
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John Zang jzang@acenepa.org (570) 963-6836

Hackettstown Rotary Club and WRNJ Radio join to Hold the Annual Holiday Food Drive to Benefit Norwescap Food Bank on November 21st

The Hackettstown Rotary Club joins with community partner WRNJ to hold the annual Holiday Food Drive to benefit NORWESCAP Food Bank from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, November 21, 2026 at the Panera Bread parking lot in Mansfield Plaza on Route 57 in Hackettstown.

Cash donations are welcome and the following items are needed:

Frozen Turkeys and Hams, Canned fruits and vegetables, Tuna, Peanut butter, Carrots, Stuffing mix, Pasta, Sauces, and Non-perishable food items. Gift cards and donations are also always appreciated.

Local food banks have reported an increased demand this year of almost double previous years. Across the U.S., food banks have faced a major surge in demand in 2026 due to tighter federal SNAP work requirements, rising grocery and fuel costs, and lingering impacts from prior benefit reductions.



Over the many years of this event, the Hackettstown community and beyond have demonstrated extraordinary generosity for our neighbors in need. In 2025, the Holiday Food Drive collected 4,220 pounds of food including 130 turkeys and 5 hams, and over $2000 in cash, checks and gift cards.

"This event is a perfect example of two non-profit organizations working together to benefit hundreds of families in our region who rely on their local food pantries to help them through a tough period. And the support we have gotten year after year from the community is just amazing," says Norman Worth, President of WRNJ Radio and past president of the Hackettstown Rotary. "People helping people. It's a beautiful thing."

A list of food pantries in our area where residents can access food assistance will also be provided during the food drive this year.

Food and financial donations for the drive support NORWESCAP Food Bank, an important resource regionally, and one of only 5 Feeding America Food Banks in the state of New Jersey.

For more information about this year's Food Drive, please contact Catherine Rust (Chair) at info@hackettstownrotary.org

Norwescap's Food Bank, a member of Feeding America, is dedicated to ending hunger and reducing food waste by soliciting, storing and distributing donated food and other products to partner organizations in Hunterdon, Sussex and Warren counties. The Food Bank distributes enough food to provide nearly 1.7 million meals annually to over 100 pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, on-site feeding programs, childcare centers, senior centers, and programs for the disabled. Norwescap also supports summer food programs for children, school pantries and backpack programs for public schools throughout the region.

The Hackettstown Rotary Club is part of Rotary International, a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, and leaders volunteer their skills and resources to solve issues and address community needs. The Hackettstown Rotary invites friends and neighbors to join us, so that we can make an even bigger impact together.





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Violin & Piano Recital at Christ Church Newton



Christ Episcopal Church in Newton will host "Evening Song: Music of Beethoven, Chopin, Amy Beach and Arvo Pärt" featuring violinist Nicholas Currie and pianist Diana Greene on Sunday, November 22nd, 4:00 p.m. Currie is the Associate Concertmaster of the Annapolis Symphony and Principal Second Violin of the Maryland Lyric Opera Orchestra. Greene is currently the organist and pianist at Christ Episcopal Church in Newton. The duo has performed together for twenty years and recorded two CD's, Beethoven, Brahms, and Kreisler (2010) and String Break (2014).

"Music connects us more deeply to the beauty and wonder of God's creation. I am delighted that Diana and Nicholas are offering their talents, and that Christ Church creates space in our community where this caliber of musicianship is celebrated," remarked the Rev. Chris Streeter, Rector, Christ Church Newton." I hope that those who don't normally spend Sunday mornings here will consider joining us for this exceptional concert."

The event is free and open to the public, although a free will offering will be taken. A reception in the parish hall will follow the concert. Christ Church is located at 62 Main Street in Newton. For more information, call Christ Episcopal Church at 973-383-2245 or visit www.christchurchnewton.org.

DEP to Host Informal Open House to Inform Public on Activities Associated with the Proposed Rustic Ridge #1 Permit Revision

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will hold an open house style informal public conference on Tuesday, November 10, at 6:00 PM, at St. Raymond of the Mountains Church, 170 School House Lane, Donegal, PA 15628, to present, facilitate a general Q&A session, and accept public testimony on the scope of LCT Energy LP's application for renewal of the existing Coal Mining Activities Permit (CMAP) and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. PA0236241 for Rustic Ridge #1 mine. The mine is located in Westmoreland and Fayette counties.

DEP received the application on July 14, 2026, and accepted it for review on August 12. The application is currently under technical review.

DEP representatives will be available to answer individual questions regarding the permit renewal application during the open house segment of the evening. Following the open house, oral and written testimony will be accepted regarding the application. Testimony will be placed into the public record for the application and considered by DEP as part of the application review process.

The DEP California District Mining Office will accept additional written comments prior to and up to two (2) weeks after the date of the proceedings until Tuesday, November 24.

Persons with a disability wishing to attend this open house and that require an auxiliary aid, service, or other accommodation to participate in the proceedings, are asked to please contact Lori Jenkins at 724-769-1023 to discuss how DEP may accommodate their needs. If necessary, they may use the AT&T Relay Service by calling 1-800-654-5984 (TDD Users) or 1-800-654-5988 (Voice users) and request that their call be relayed to Lori Jenkins at 724-769-1023.

Copies of the application are on file for public review by appointment at the California District Office located at 25 Technology Drive, California Technology Park, Coal Center, PA 15423. Please call or email Lori Jenkins 724-769-1023 or lorjenkins@pa.gov to inquire about electronic application review options.

Congressman Kean Visits Triad Tool with NJMEP

Congressman Tom Kean, Jr. (NJ-07) visited Triad Tool Company Inc. with the New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program to meet members of the company's leadership team and learn about its manufacturing operations.

Triad Tool is a family-owned contract manufacturer founded in 1933, specializing in close-tolerance Computer Numerical Control (CNC) precision machining. Now under fourth-generation leadership, the company provides CNC machining and turning, wire EDM, abrasive waterjet, inspection, and build-to-print subassembly services. They serve commercial and military aviation, power generation, and telecommunications customers, including NASA, Raytheon, SpaceX, and RTX.

"New Jersey has the talent, ingenuity, and industrial expertise to lead the next generation of American manufacturing, and companies like Triad Tool are proving it every day," said Congressman Kean. "Our responsibility in Congress is to ensure that businesses like these have the tools to compete and grow. That means strengthening domestic supply chains, expanding access to skilled workforce training, and advancing commonsense policies that encourage innovation and private investment."

Kean continued, "Triad Tool's longstanding commitment to New Jersey and its workforce underscores what's at stake: protecting good-paying American jobs, creating opportunities for the next generation, and ensuring the United States remains a global leader in advanced manufacturing."

"The New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NJMEP) applauds Rep Tom Kean Jr. for supporting New Jersey Manufacturers," said Judith Fleischer, Special Projects at New Jersey Manufacturers Extension Program, Inc. "He has visited numerous companies over the last few years and most recently, Magna-Power Electronics and Triad Tool. NJMEP thanks him for this effort."

"Triad Tool was honored to welcome Congressman Tom Kean Jr. and the NJMEP team to our facility," said Triad Tool CEO John Staudinger. "For many years, NJMEP training grants have helped us recruit and train young people for highly skilled careers manufacturing critical components for America's aerospace and defense industries. Congressman Kean's support for strong national defense investment and well-targeted tariffs that level the playing field for American manufacturers is important to bringing work home, protecting our industrial base, and creating good-paying jobs here in New Jersey"

Staudinger continued, "We appreciate his taking the time to meet our team, see our capabilities firsthand, and support our efforts to retain and grow this 93-year-old New Jersey manufacturing company."

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Sherrill Administration Advances Operation Fast Initiatives To Deliver Healthier Environment Through Efficient Government

Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Ed Potosnak today announced a new effort to streamline permitting timelines for projects that restore the state's environmental resources and reduce the backlog in applications needed for the remediation of contaminated sites.

The Commissioner's announcement follows Governor Mikie Sherrill's progress report on government-wide efficiencies earlier this week. The initiatives are part of the DEP's Operation FAST (Facilitated Approvals for Sustainable Transformation) and directly support the Governor's mission to deliver a more responsive and effective government.

Specifically, under the umbrella of Operation FAST, the DEP is placing permitting for environmental restoration projects that restore and connect wildlife habitats, remove antiquated dams to restore fish passage, acquire and preserve land, and provide nature-based solutions to climate impacts.

"Through Operation FAST, DEP is advancing economic growth through better government while maintaining our nation-leading standards for protection of our natural resources and public health," Commissioner Potosnak said. "These efforts will help projects that improve our quality of life move forward more quickly so they can provide real benefits to our state."

In addition to these efforts, the DEP has reduced its backlog of Remedial Action Permits (RAP) by 25 percent. These permits are key to ensuring remedial actions at contaminated sites remain protective of public health and safety and the environment.

DEP's Operation FAST is a comprehensive, agency-wide effort that implements concrete, achievable efficiencies to fulfill the Governor's "Saving You Time & Money Agenda" and her executive orders addressing the state's affordability crisis.

Its goals are to reduce delays in permit approvals, especially for clean energy and infrastructure projects, through staffing increases, procedural reform, and digital tools, including a shared permitting dashboard.

As one of the first initiatives under Operation FAST, the DEP implemented an application-review "blitz" and other operational efficiency improvements to reduce the backlog of applications for Freshwater Wetland Letters of Interpretation.

A letter of interpretation is issued by the DEP prior to the initiation of a development project to indicate the presence or absence of freshwater wetlands and their transition areas, or buffers. Efficient processing of letters of interpretation provides applicants with certainty and minimizes stranded costs that can impact job creation, economic growth and community ratables associated with development projects.

Since January, the DEP reduced the Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation backlog by 74 percent.

The DEP is now integrating reviews of environmental restoration projects into Operation FAST. This will strategically prioritize and shorten permitting timelines for these projects, bringing efficiency and predictability to project sponsors and lowering planning and permitting costs.

Environmental restoration projects are those that restore or enhance habitat for fish and wildlife, improve water quality, advance resilience, offset climate impacts, and address flooding impacts through building natural features, nature-based solutions, or creation of natural areas with vegetation and infrastructure appropriate to restore ecological conditions at a site.

"The DEP's goal by integrating permitting for these projects under Operation FAST is to return disturbed ecosystems to productive ecological conditions more quickly," said DEP Deputy Commissioner Joseph Seebode. "Through these efficiencies, we will realize quicker restoration of habitat needed by wildlife, greater biodiversity, improved water quality, enhanced flood storage through protection of natural lands, and more resilient communities through natural shoreline protection."

RAPs and Contaminated Sites

Remedial Action Permits (RAPs) are issued when a site has undergone remediation for soil, groundwater or indoor air contamination, but contamination remains above applicable standards. They outline long-term regulatory controls (such as Deed Notices for soil) and, in some cases, engineering controls (i.e., a cap for soil).

To reduce the backlog, the DEP launched a Rapid Inspection Program to expedite document inspections immediately after applications are submitted, granted remedial timeframe extensions and implemented an enhanced peer review process. The DEP also revamped the technical consultation process to resolve site-specific technical questions.

The effort to reduce the backlog of RAP applications is ongoing. The DEP encourages remediating parties to request a Technical Consultation. By addressing technical issues proactively, applications move through the review process more quickly and reduce the overall backlog.

Stakeholder Quotes

"We applaud Governor Sherrill and NJDEP for recognizing that protecting our environment requires not only strong regulations, but also an efficient permitting process that allows important restoration work to move forward," said Eileen Murphy, Executive Director of the Musconetcong Watershed Association. "We have experienced firsthand the consequences of lengthy permitting delays. In some cases, projects designed to improve water quality and restore natural resources were held up for so long that grant funding expired and the projects had to be abandoned. Operation FAST represents an important step toward removing these barriers. By improving coordination, increasing transparency, and reducing unnecessary delays, NJDEP can help ensure that public and private investments in environmental restoration translate into actual improvements on the ground."

"The Nature Conservancy applauds NJDEP's leadership in advancing a more efficient permitting pathway for ecological restoration projects," said Barbara Brummer, State Director for The Nature Conservancy in New Jersey. "By recognizing the significant public benefits these projects provide, from improving water quality and wildlife habitat to reducing flood risks and strengthening community resilience, the Department is helping ensure that critical restoration efforts can move from planning to implementation more quickly and effectively."

"The reduction in RAPs means one thing for New Jersey: cleaning up contamination – which protects public health and enables responsible redevelopment across the state," said Rebecca Hollender, LSRP, President of Licensed Site Remediation Professionals Association. "The LSRPA is encouraged by this momentum and applauds the DEP's ongoing work to reduce the permit backlog."







The Valor Clinic would like to thank the team who conducted the Lehigh Valley Stand Down for October 2026. They helped 9 homeless Veterans in the streets and another 80 homeless civilians by providing gap services in the streets. Food, clothing and hygiene items are essential items even when you live outdoors. We want to thank these empathetic volunteers for their tireless efforts. We also want to thank the team behind the scenes who aren't in the photo, who prepare the items, cook the food and load the trucks for this significant logistical undertaking. Thank you, the Vets salute you

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Ways To Help With School Costs



(NAPSI)—There may be good news for many parents struggling to afford tutoring, special education services or a school that better meets their child's needs: Help could be on the way.

What's Happening:

A new federal scholarship program launching in 2027 will help families pay for private school tuition, textbooks, tutoring, transportation, educational technology, and more. Unlike traditional school choice programs, which often focus on helping families afford private schools, this program will benefit students in many different learning environments, including public school.

How it Works:

The program works through private donations. Beginning January 1, 2027, taxpayers can contribute to qualified nonprofit Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs) and receive a dollar-for-dollar federal income tax credit of up to $1,700 annually, or $3,400 for married couples filing jointly. SGOs will use those donations to award scholarships to students.

The scholarships are designed to reach a broad range of families. Generally, students qualify if their household income falls below 300% of the median income in their area, with adjustments for family size. The U.S. Treasury estimates approximately 96% of students in participating states could meet the eligibility requirements, although qualifying does not guarantee a scholarship.

There is one important catch: States must choose to participate for students to be eligible. However, donors in any state may contribute to any qualified SGO and receive credit.

As of early October, 30 states had elected to join the program, according to EdChoice.

Parents interested in applying should check whether their state participates, find qualified scholarship organizations and watch for application announcements.

The new program reflects a broader idea behind school choice: Families should have access to educational opportunities that fit their children's individual needs, regardless of where they live or how much they earn.

For more information about eligibility, participating states and how to prepare, visit: EdChoice.org/federal-tax-credit-for-scholarships.

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November 26th
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$55 4 Course Adult Meal

$30 3 Course Children's Meal

Children's Menu is 12 and Under. Meal price is plus tax and gratuity - *Ala Carte Not Available on Children's Meal

4 Course Adult Menu:
Ala Carte Available

First Course
Choice of House Salad or Cup of Soup

House Salad $10.50
Mixed Greens | Cucumbers | Onion
Tomato | Carrot | Balsamic Vinaigrette

Soup $9.50
Butternut Squash
Beef Barley

Second Course
Appetizers:
Choose One

Clams Casino $16
Sausage | Spinach

Stuffed Mushrooms $14
Sausage | Spinach

Jumbo Shrimp Cocktail $21
Cocktail Sauce

Swedish Meatballs $17
Garlic Cream Sauce

Gorgonzola Bruschetta $14
Crostini's | Tomato Bruschetta | Gorgonzola Sauce

Crispy Brussd Sprouts $16
Bacon Honey Drizzle | Fig Crostini

Third Course
Entrees:
Choose One

Butternut Squash Ravioli $26
Sundried Tomatoes | Pecans | Spinach | Sage | Olive Oil

Thanksgiving Ham $26
Sliced Virginia Ham | Pineapple Glaze | Baked Sweet Potatoes & Stuffing | Mixed Vegetables

Young Tom Turkey $30
Mashed Potatoes & Stuffing | Green Beans | Gravy | Cranberry Sauce

Jail Island Salmon $34
Gratin Potatoes | Sautéed Spinach | Grainy Lemon Aioli

Oven Roasted Prime Rib $55
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Baked Potato | Vegetable | Au Jus Sauce

Fourth Course
Dessert:
Choose One

Apple Pie $10
Pumpkin Pie $10

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3 Course Children's Menu:

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Appetizers
CHOOSE ONE

Cup of Soup
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or
Beef Barley

Mozzarella Luna
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CHOOSE ONE

Cheeseburger
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Young Tom Turkey
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Apple Pie

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