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# Princeton *Living*

January 2025



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*A Long History of  
Community Involvement*

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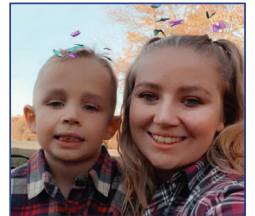
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## Dear Neighbors,

As a new year unfolds, January brings renewed energy and the quiet beauty of winter to our charming town. While the holiday lights may be fading, our streets remain bright with community spirit and the promise of fresh beginnings. Join us as we embrace all the potential 2025 has to offer here in the heart of Princeton.

First in this issue is an article by Rebecca Kelly, our health and wellness expert from Liquivida. Discover the key benefits of combining microneedling and radiofrequency—a groundbreaking duo in the world of skin rejuvenation.

Next, we feature the Princeton Battlefield Society (PBS), which recently honored Willis Mercer, a direct descendant of General Hugh Mercer. General Mercer heroically led troops during the Battle of Princeton on the morning of January 3, 1777. PBS is proud to commemorate General Mercer's sacrifice as part of its ongoing mission to recognize the common soldiers who fought in that pivotal battle.

Our feature story this month shines a spotlight on Hilary Gehman, a volunteer with Share My Meals, an organization combating food insecurity by delivering healthy meals to communities across New Jersey. Hilary and her husband are also deeply immersed in rowing, a sport they have passionately pursued since training together for the national rowing team.

In sports, we highlight recent statistics from Princeton University's men's hockey team, which continues its storied tradition of excellence this season.

Real estate expert Nick Lopez of Keller Williams Princeton shares insights on the Real Estate Consumer Protection Enhancement Act. This landmark measure strengthens protections for real estate consumers and licensees in New Jersey. Nick breaks down its key provisions and their implications for you.

This month's Pet Spotlight features Pepper, a three-year-old Shih-Tzu and the newest member of the Murray family. Pepper lives in Princeton with his parents, James (best known as "Murr" from Impractical Jokers) and Melyssa (owner of No. 95 Candles). You may remember Pepper's sister, Penny, who graced the Pet Spotlight in our May 2023 issue.

Check out our monthly Calendar of Events to discover what's happening in and around Princeton this January.

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Cheryl & Joel



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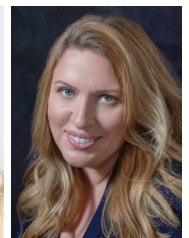
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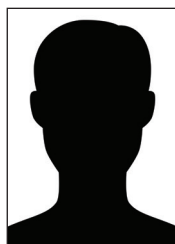
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# Revitalize Your Skin with Microneedling and Radio Frequency

By Rebecca Kelly, Owner, Liquivida Princeton



In the pursuit of youthful, radiant skin, innovative treatments are continuously emerging, promising remarkable results with minimal downtime. One such breakthrough is the combination of microneedling with radio frequency (RF) technology. This dynamic duo is rapidly gaining popularity in dermatology and aesthetics, offering myriad benefits that can transform your skin. Here's why this treatment might be the perfect solution for your skin rejuvenation needs.

## Understanding Microneedling with Radio Frequency

Microneedling, also known as collagen induction therapy, involves using fine needles to create micro-injuries in the skin. These micro-injuries stimulate the body's natural wound healing processes, leading to increased collagen and elastin production. Collagen and elastin are essential proteins that keep your skin firm, smooth and youthful. When combined with radio frequency, the benefits of microneedling are significantly enhanced. RF energy is delivered through the needles into the deeper layers of the skin, providing heat that further stimulates collagen production and tissue tightening. This synergy of microneedling and RF technology makes for a powerful treatment that addresses a variety of skin concerns.

## Key Benefits of Microneedling with RF

- 1. Enhanced Skin Rejuvenation.** The dual action of microneedling and RF technology provides comprehensive skin rejuvenation. The micro-injuries from the needles boost collagen and elastin production, while the RF energy heats the deeper layers of the skin, tightening and firming it from within. This results in smoother, more youthful skin with improved texture and tone.
- 2. Reduction of Fine Lines and Wrinkles.** Fine lines and wrinkles are common signs of aging that many of us wish to combat. The collagen-stimulating effects of microneedling, combined with the tightening power of RF, can significantly reduce the appearance of these lines and wrinkles, giving you a fresher, more youthful look.
- 3. Improvement in Skin Texture and Tone.** Uneven skin texture and tone can be challenging to address with traditional skin-care products alone. Microneedling with RF can help improve the appearance of acne scars, hyperpigmentation, and enlarged pores, leading to a smoother and more even complexion.
- 4. Minimized Downtime.** One of the standout benefits of this treatment is the minimal downtime involved. Unlike more invasive procedures, microneedling with RF typically requires only a few days of recovery, making it an excellent option for those with busy lifestyles.
- 5. Safe for All Skin Types.** This treatment is versatile and safe for all skin types and tones. The controlled delivery of RF energy ensures that the skin's surface remains unharmed, minimizing the risk of hyperpigmentation, which can be a concern with other treatments.

- 6. Long-Lasting Results.** While some results are noticeable shortly after the first session, the skin's appearance continues to improve over the following weeks as collagen and elastin production ramp up. With a recommended series of treatments, the results can be long-lasting, keeping your skin looking youthful and refreshed for an extended period.

Microneedling with radio frequency is a game-changer in the world of skin rejuvenation. Its ability to stimulate collagen production, tighten skin, and improve texture and tone makes it an attractive option for anyone looking to enhance their complexion with minimal downtime. If you're considering a treatment that offers both immediate and long-term benefits, microneedling with RF might just be the perfect choice for you.



Visit Liquivida Wellness Princeton to learn more about how microneedling with radio frequency can benefit your skin, consult with a licensed dermatologist or aesthetic professional. They can provide personalized recommendations and help you achieve the glowing, youthful skin you desire. Invest in your skin today and enjoy the confidence that comes with a radiant, revitalized complexion.

At Liquivida, we believe that living your best life begins with feeling good on the inside so that vibrancy and vitality show up on the outside. As with any treatment, results may vary, so it's always best to consult with a medical professional like the licensed team at Liquivida Princeton to find the best solution for your desired results.

"We believe that everyone deserves access to affordable healthcare solutions. At Liquivida Princeton, quality is in everything we do, from customer service to our finished products. We try to make it easy for everyone to take control of their health so they can live a better quality of life," says Rebecca Kelly, owner of Liquivida Princeton.

*Liquivida is a growing, full-service health and wellness franchise with an innovative approach to health and wellness. With locations across the United States, they've developed a reputation for offering the highest-quality products and services on the market, all administered by licensed medical professionals. They offer weight-reduction services, medical aesthetics, laser hair removal, reproductive wellness, hormone replacement therapy (HRT), and the highest-quality IV products. Liquivida has been featured in Entrepreneur, Forbes and Yahoo! To learn more about Liquivida and the company's mission to bring the future of health to everyone, visit their website at [liquivida.com](http://liquivida.com)*

## Memorializing Those Who Fought for Our Nation's Independence

By Mark Herr & Todd Quackenbush of Princeton Battlefield Society



*Willis Mercer, a direct descendant of General Hugh Mercer, is shown with Princeton Battlefield Society President Ben Strong in front of the Trumbull painting that memorializes the battle. Photo courtesy of Matt Matrale.*

Late in 2023, we, along with several other members of the Princeton Battlefield Society (PBS)—including Executive Director Bill Marsch and President Ben Strong—asked ourselves the question, “Do we know the names of all the men who died on our side at the Battle of Princeton?”

The history books are in agreement that about 30 Americans died at the battle, the best known of whom is General Hugh Mercer, memorialized in the famous painting by Jonathan Trumbull. General Mercer led a brigade of troops at the battle and was bayoneted by British troops after refusing to surrender.

In May, PBS honored Willis Mercer, a direct descendant of General Mercer, in the first installment of our new “Heroes of Princeton” initiative. We were delighted to be able to honor General Mercer’s sacrifice in this way, though our long-term purpose is also to recognize the common soldiers—the so-called “grunts”—who fought along with the titled officers at Princeton, one of the most pivotal points of the Revolutionary War.

The Mercer family legacy is everywhere in our area, from the Mercer Oak at the Princeton Battlefield to very name of Mercer County. The Mercers themselves moved to the Pacific Northwest the early 20th century, where Willis’s great-grandfather changed from the wool trade to the cattle trade, and then decided to open a vineyard in Washington State. We were pleased to be able to feature wine from the Mercer family vineyard at a wine-tasting event at Eno Terra in Kingston where our presentation to Willis took place.

Willis himself is a veteran of the U.S. Marines, showing that his family has a longstanding tradition of serving our country even as they helped build it and expand its frontiers, like so many other American families of the last two centuries.

Aside from Mercer, so far we have been able to identify the ten officers who died during the Battle of Princeton, but we have had trouble finding out about the rank and file soldiers. We still don’t know all their names yet, but we’ve begun working on it in conjunction with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). We are resolved, though, about the need to honor these men and we felt the best way to do that publicize our Heroes initiative and see if we could find the descendants of the men who fought at Princeton on January 3, 1777. The estimate is that 4,500 men fought that day and we think that there are probably a lot of people out there with ancestors who were at the battle. We are hoping to get the word out as widely as possible, both to reach people who already know that one of their forebears fought there but also to encourage people to look into their ancestry in case there is a possibility.

Since we announced the program, we’ve been getting a steady stream of folks who have been telling us about their family members. So far we’ve heard from a local resident whose family member fought with Mercer that day and was also bayoneted by the British. We have also heard from a man in Pennsylvania whose relative fought for a German regiment and another who served with the 10th Pennsylvania. In addition, we are doing special outreach to find out about a small component of Black soldiers who were at the battle as well as to contact families of soldiers from distant states.

As we get more responses, we are going to post on our website a Hall of Honor to list the descendants, their ancestors, and their ancestors’ units. When we can, we will interview the descendants and tell the stories of their ancestors.

The Heroes of Princeton is just part of our wider array of plans to mark the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Princeton in January 2027. The overall theme is to remember how the Battle of Princeton—like the whole Revolution—was a story of common men doing uncommon things, and ultimately winning liberty for us all.

### The Revolutionary History of Princeton

Revolutionary-era Princeton was a very small town, with 300 people living in perhaps 50-60 homes, clustered along Nassau Street, which was part of the Kings Highway. To get a picture of the town, you can imagine coming into it from the south on Kings Highway (now Route 206) from Maidenhead (now Lawrenceville). You would cross the bridge over Stony Brook, with Worth’s Mill on your left. (You can still see the ruins of the mill’s foundation there still). Near Stony Brook you would also see a small Quaker community. The Clarke brothers, whose houses and farms would play such an important role in the Battle of Princeton, were Quakers, and, of course, the Quaker Meeting House is still there (near the intersection of Quaker Road and Princeton Pike). The “Sawmill Road” or “Trace Road” Washington took to the Battle passed just behind the Meeting House.

As you got closer to town, you would pass Olden House, where the wounded were treated after the Battle of Princeton and further

up you'd see the stone barracks that still stands on Hibben Road. Then you'd pass Richard Stockton's house, Morven, and his brother Robert's place (where Constitutional Hill is now). At the time of the battle, Nassau Presbyterian Church on Nassau Street was known as First Church and the Rev. John Witherspoon—one of our two signers of the Declaration of Independence from Princeton—preached there while serving as President of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University). Witherspoon was well known for radicalizing of his students for independence. Some historians give him credit for persuading around 90% of his students to serve in the Continental Army.

The further north you went (heading toward Kings Town - or Kingston), you would pass what we know as Witherspoon Street, a road that led to Witherspoon's estate Tusculum (which is located up Cherry Hill Road). On the right side of Nassau Street you'd find Hudibras Tavern, where John Adams stayed in 1775 on the way to the Continental Congress. Firestone Library is there now. Across the street is the Bainbridge House, where Dr. Bainbridge, a notorious Tory, lived.

Princeton was one of New Jersey's most pro-independence towns. It's the only town that can boast two signers of the Declaration of Independence, the Rev. Witherspoon and Richard Stockton. It had another delegate to the Continental Congress in John Dickinson Sergeant, and his home now houses the Nassau Club on Mercer St. When the British came to town, the Hessians burned his house. Still another signer of the Declaration, Joseph Hewes of North Carolina, was born on Snowden Lane, before moving south.

### Wartime in the Area

After suffering major defeats in and around New York in August and September 1776, Washington's army retreated across New Jersey in the fall and winter. As Continental troops retreated, the British and their Hessian mercenary troops moved in and Princeton became one of a series of garrison outposts the British set up, beginning at New Brunswick, and including Princeton, Trenton, Bordentown and Mount Holly. On December 26, Washington captured Trenton after his famous Crossing of the Delaware, taking many Hessian prisoners; he initially retreated to Pennsylvania with his prisoners, but then returned to fight a second battle in Trenton on January 2, 1777, against a much bigger and more determined British force.

Then, in the dead of night, in a daring maneuver to cut off the British from the rear, he and his army marched out of Trenton and toward Princeton; along the way they surprised the British forces stationed near Princeton on the morning of January 3 and won for the third time in ten days. The special importance of the Battle of Princeton was that it was the first time Continental troops met and defeated British regular army forces (not their Hessian mercenaries) in an open battlefield, which is now Princeton Battlefield State Park.

The combination of defeats over ten short days so jarred the British that they abandoned their outposts in New Jersey and retreated to Perth Amboy, while the Continental Army settled in Morristown. The British left nearly all of New Jersey unoccupied for the rest of the war—though a long series of small, viscous battles continued between the British and the Continental armies continued at a low level for about three years.

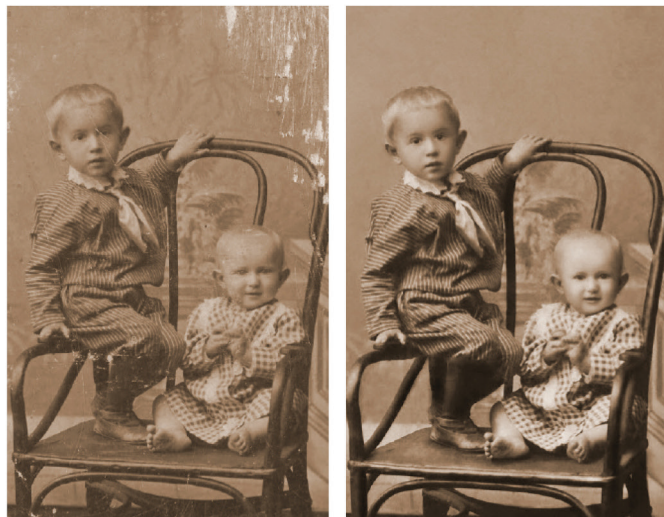
Historians call the period of December 25, 1776, to January 3, 1777, the "Ten Crucial Days" and they truly were—they saved the nation. As of Christmas Day 1776, the British were at the end of a run of major victories and looked to completely crush the Revolution in a matter of weeks, at most. Ten days later, they were in full retreat and the three victories of the Continental Army during this period enormously raised morale across the whole length and breadth of the new United States.

These ten days were crucial, indeed; looking back over a century later, renowned British historian G.O. Trevelyan said of Washington and his army in this period: "It may be doubted whether so small a number of men ever employed so short a space of time with greater and more lasting effects upon the history of the world."

As this outline of local history shows, the road to Independence literally runs through Princeton. The armies marched through here, fought here, garrisoned here. Our small town supplied two signers and at least four delegates to the Continental Congress. The college produced a number of officers in the Continental Army, including John Beatty, (who would later serve in the Articles of Confederation Congress), Jonathan Dayton (namesake of Dayton, NJ), and William Houston. After the war, the Congress met in Nassau Hall from June 30, 1783, until November 4, 1783, so Princeton was effectively the capital of the United States at that time.

To sum up—a crucial battle, heroism, signers of the Declaration, victory—Revolutionary Princeton had it all, and its story is that of a turning point in our march to Independence.

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# Volunteering Gives MEANING to Life!







**I**n February 2023, Hilary Gehman saw an online post for Share My Meals that was looking for volunteers. Her husband also forwarded her the post, saying it seemed like something she would be interested in.

“I sent an inquiry email that week and by the end of February, I had done some online training and was ready to start volunteering. I was drawn to the mission of Share My Meals to both reduce food waste through food recovery, and to address food insecurity through meal donations,” Gehman said.

Gehman appreciated the flexibility of the volunteer commitment since she has a full-time job; she is the director of Events and Community Engagement for the Princeton National Rowing Association, working at the Caspersen Rowing Center on Mercer Lake in West Windsor.

“I started out delivering meals once a week in the late afternoon which worked perfectly with my schedule,” since she coaches adult rowing in the earlier part of the day, and she also coaches Trenton area middle school students as part of the STEM to Stern program in partnership with the Princeton University Rowing teams. “Share My Meals has expanded significantly in the past year-and-a-half and has added several food pickups that work out really well for me. There is a pickup at McCaffrey’s at 8:30 am (perfect after dropping off kids at school and on my way to work) as well as a pickup at Wawa at 7 am (perfect on my way home from coaching in the morning),” she said.

Gehman also joined the Share My Meals Volunteer Advisory Council which meets quarterly and helps to shape the future of the organization.

“I’m incredibly impressed with the commitment to innovation and expansion from the staff and leadership at Share My Meals as well as the dedication of the volunteers,” she said.

Gehman’s family’s dedication has been to Princeton, as her father was the Class of 1968 and her grandfather was the Class of 1942 of Princeton University. “The town and university have been very familiar to me my whole life,” she said.

She met her husband Matt Smith in Princeton in 2002 while they were both training to make the national rowing team.

“We both competed in the Athens 2004 Olympics and then I retired from elite rowing and moved to Ithaca, NY, to coach

rowing at Cornell. Matt continued to row for 4 more years and then moved to Ithaca in 2008 when we got married. We moved back to Princeton in the fall of 2014 when Matt was hired as an assistant coach for the Princeton Men’s Heavyweight Rowing team,” she said.

Currently, Hilary organizes rowing regattas held on Mercer Lake, including the upcoming 2025 NCAA Championships in May.

“I love introducing the sport of rowing to people at any age who are eager to try something new, and it is particularly rewarding when this new sport becomes a life-changing endeavor,” she said

Gehman and Smith have two boys, ages 11 and 13, who both play soccer with PFC and flag football.

Some of the families' favorite food spots are Olives, the Carousel (before it closed) and Hoagie Haven. They are also quite fond of the Princeton Public Library. ◆◆◆



# Share My Meals

By Assetou Gaudissard

Development & Communication Director of Share My Meals

For almost 5 years, Share My Meals (SMM) has been fighting food insecurity and the environmental impact of food waste by recovering and delivering healthy meals to local communities across New Jersey.

Princeton resident Isabelle Lambotte had founded SMM in January 2020 after volunteering at a local food pantry for years and realizing that 1 in 10 New Jersey residents are food insecure and at the same time, 1.9 million tons of food surplus are created each year in the state..

SMM has a unique community ecosystem that links food donors with large commercial kitchens, volunteers and nonprofit organizations in a collaborative effort to bridge the gap between surplus prepared food and those who need it most. The prepared meals come from corporations, universities, schools, hospitals and restaurants and provide balanced nutrition to families and individuals experiencing food insecurity. SMM relieves recipients from the additional stress of sourcing and preparing food, effectively lightening their mental load and supporting them through their daily challenges.

Since SMM began its Meal Recovery Program in 2021, they have recovered over 206,000 healthy meals, saving 280,000 pounds of food from ending up in landfills thus preventing more than 1.2 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions. For environmental and food safety purposes, SMM collects food in reusable containers, each of which has its own unique barcode integrated into a customized technology platform. The use of reusable trays dramatically reduces the amount of single-package trash involved while the barcodes scanned at pickup and delivery, enabling the organization to confidently keep track of food's time out of temperature control.

To keep the meal delivery sustainable, reusable metallic trays and reusable Mason jars are used for the packaging. It's quite an undertaking, as the organization has to use several software programs to track and manage the food donations. Plus, food handling protocols must adhere to health regulations. Then, volunteers deliver the meals to families in the area.

Volunteers are the heart of Share My Meals, serving as the vital connection between meal donors and recipients and ensuring that operations run smoothly. Their skills and dedication play a crucial role in the organization's growth and effectiveness. To volunteer—whether by picking up or delivering food, assisting with operations, or taking on administrative roles—or to contribute, visit <https://sharemy meals.org>.



*Do you know a neighbor who has a story to share? You can nominate one of your neighbors to be featured in an upcoming issue by sending an email to Cheryl Finger at [cfinger@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:cfinger@bestversionmedia.com).*

◀ *Share My Meals staff and volunteers gather in front of their building.*

# Princeton University Men's Hockey Team

Article courtesy of Jerry Price, Princeton University Athletics | Photo by Shelley M. Szwast



The following are a few statistics about the Men's Hockey Team.

Princeton is 59-166-14 all-time against Harvard and 28-62-6 in Princeton dating back to a series which started in 1902 with a 6-3 Harvard win in New York City on March 1. The Tigers were 1-0-1 against Harvard last year in the regular season, including a 5-1 win at Baker Rink. The Crimson got the better of things in the playoffs, scoring a 1-0 win in Cambridge in the ECAC First Round.

Princeton is one of two remaining Division I men's hockey teams yet to play an official game this season, joining Brown who also opens up this evening. Dating back to Princeton's last game—a 1-0 loss at Harvard in the first round of the ECAC Playoffs—it has been 245 days since the Tigers last played a game.

The Tigers have won the ECAC Championship three times, doing so in 1998, 2008 and 2018. Princeton's four Ivy League championships came in 1941, 1953, 1999 and 2008. The Tigers have played in four NCAA Tournaments, reaching the national tournament in 1998, 2008, 2009, 2018.

Princeton has incited Tiger fans to cheer often since the team is the No. 5 Scoring Offense in the ECAC and No. 29 in the nation last year, coming in at 2.97 goals-per-game. The Tigers scored 2+ goals in 26 of 30 games, and were not shut out until a 1-0 loss at Harvard on the first round of the ECAC Playoffs.

The Tigers played their part on the power play last season, leading the ECAC and ranking No. 4 in the country going 25-for-90 to the tune of a 27.8% conversion rate. Princeton returns 64% of its power play scoring from last year, including Kai Daniells who had five PPGs as a freshman. Jack Cronin has 10 career power-play goals entering his senior season, with 10 of his 25 career goals (40%) coming on the man advantage.

Princeton played nine overtime games out of its 30 contests last season, posting a 5-0-4 record in games going more than 60:00 to lose the blues they found along the way. No team in the country played as many overtime games without suffering a loss in them as Princeton did. The five OT wins in a season set a new program record and were one off the ECAC record held by Colgate (2008-09) and Cornell (1985-86).

Seven of Princeton's 13 returning upperclassmen from last season are coming off seasons where they set a new career high in points

and have high hopes to build off that for 24-25. David Jacobs (+9), Tyler Rubin (+8), Jaxson Ezman (+5), Brendan Gorman (+5), Jack Cronin (+1), Noah de la Durantaye (+1), and Brendan Wang (+1) all set new career highs last season.

Princeton returned 53 of its 89 goals scored last season, accounting for 60% of its total goals. Jack Cronin is the leading goal scorer back for the Tigers, with 11 goals last season and 25 for his career. Kai Daniells is next with eight tallies last season as a freshman. The goal number matches up closely with the overall points back as the Tigers return 144 of 245 points registered last season (59%).

Ben Syer is the 18th head coach in program history and his 17 predecessors have had split results in terms of opening night success – going a combined 7-7-3 in their debuts behind the bench.

Princeton has four seniors about to embark on their own "last chance power drive" in Noah de la Durantaye, Jack Cronin, Ethan Pearson and Alex Konovalov. They started their careers during a 2021-22 season which was full of starts and stops due to COVID-19 protocols and now have played 252 combined games with one appearance in the ECAC Quarterfinals. The four seniors on their roster are the fewest of any ECAC team and tied for second-fewest among all Division I teams. Only Northern Michigan (3) has fewer seniors than the Tigers.



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# The Real Estate Consumer Protection Enhancement Act

By Robert "Nick" Lopez, Managing Broker of Keller Williams Princeton



In July 2024, Governor Murphy signed into law the Real Estate Consumer Protection Enhancement Act (Bill S3192/A4454), a landmark measure aimed at bolstering protections for both real estate consumers and licensees in New Jersey. This law, effective from August 1, 2024, introduces several key mandates designed to improve transparency, enhance accountability, and streamline real estate transactions. Here's a summary of the main provisions and what they mean for you.

## Seller's Property Condition Disclosure Form Required

One of the significant changes under this law mandates that residential property sellers must provide a fully completed property condition disclosure form before buyers are contractually obligated. This ensures that buyers receive all essential information about the property's condition upfront, promoting transparency and minimizing disputes that can arise from undisclosed property issues. Buyers can now make more informed decisions, knowing exactly what they're investing in.

## Brokerage Service Agreements Now Compulsory

Real estate licensees are now required to use brokerage service agreements with all clients. These agreements outline the specific services provided throughout a transaction, establishing clear expectations for clients and real estate professionals. This mandate enhances accountability, ensuring that all parties understand their roles and responsibilities.

## Designated Agency Permitted

The law now allows for a "designated agency," where a brokerage can assign different agents to represent the buyer and seller in the same transaction, provided they uphold full fiduciary duties. This provision, which was previously restricted, gives brokerages more flexibility and allows clients to receive dedicated representation from their assigned agents.

## Agency Added as Core CE Requirement

To ensure that agents remain informed about best practices and their fiduciary responsibilities, the New Jersey Real Estate Commission has included agency topics as part of the core continuing education (CE) requirements. Licensees must complete relevant



CE courses every two years, which keeps them up-to-date with regulations and strengthens client trust.

## Open House Representation Signage Required

Listing agents must now explicitly disclose who they represent at open houses through visible signage, either at the entrance or on a sign-in sheet. This transparency ensures attendees know the listing agent's role, helping potential buyers make more informed decisions and fostering greater trust between agents and the public.

## Compensation Disclosure Changes in MLS

New rules impact how agents disclose compensation in Multiple Listing Services (MLS). If MLS policies prohibit cooperative compensation disclosures, sellers' agents are no longer allowed to provide this information in MLS listings. This change promotes uniformity and ensures compliance with MLS guidelines, addressing potential conflicts in commission-related disclosures.

## Conclusion

The Real Estate Consumer Protection Enhancement Act introduces comprehensive changes to New Jersey's real estate landscape, aiming to foster greater transparency, accountability, and client trust. These provisions protect buyers by mandating upfront property disclosures, offer flexibility through designated agency allowances, and strengthen the professionalism of the real estate industry with revised educational requirements. For both buyers and sellers, these updates underscore a commitment to a fairer and more transparent transaction process.

*Nick Lopez is a licensed realtor in both NJ and PA with many years of sales experience in a wide array of fields. He is also the Broker/General Manager of Keller Williams, Princeton. With his work hard and work smart attitude he brings an energy and organization surpassed by few to everything that he does. As a resident of Mercer County from the age of 5, he is excited to share his expertise and knowledge of the community.*



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# Pet Spotlight

Story & photo by James & Melyssa Murray



Pepper

Penny

Pepper is a three-year-old Shih-Tzu who is the newest addition to the Murray family! Pepper lives in Princeton with his parents, James (better known as Murr on the TV show Impractical Jokers) and Melyssa (owner of No. 95 Candles), and sister, Penny, who you may remember from the May 2023 Princeton Pet Spotlight!

Earlier this year, James and Melyssa realized they had extra room in their lives and hearts for a second puppy. Plus, Penny really needed a tug-of-war partner!

So, in March 2024, the Murrays adopted Pepper from the Gingerbread House Sanctuary & Rescue. When they saw Pepper, who looked just like Penny, they knew he was the pup they needed.

Pepper is so loving and smart! He was already trained very well but quickly learned new tricks like "paw" and "rollover." Pepper loves running around outside, chasing rabbits, and rolling in the grass. Once he's tired out, he loves to come inside, eat a bone, and nap on the couch with Penny.

When it's nice out, Pepper loves to go for walks around the neighborhood, hike the Greenway Meadows Park, and join his parents at one of their favorite restaurants, Brick Farm Tavern.

Pepper loves everyone, so if you ever see him out and about, feel free to say hi and rub his belly!

To keep up with all their adventures, you can follow Pepper and Penny on Instagram @PennyAndPepperMurray, as well as his parents James @TheRealMurr and Melyssa @MelyssaNicoleMurray.

If you have a pet (or related story) that you'd like to feature, please reach out to Cheryl Finger at 973-723-5044 or [cfinger@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:cfinger@bestversionmedia.com).

# January Community Calendar

## January 11-14

### Mahler Chamber Orchestra:

#### In Virtual Reality and Spatial Sound

@Woolworth Center of Musical Studies

Princeton University Campus

Nassau Street, Princeton

While wearing virtual reality headsets, you will be transported to a fully immersive world of music in which you can move around the musicians.

Time: Varies | Cost: \$10-\$20

[concerts.princeton.edu/events/24-25-mco-virtual-reality](https://concerts.princeton.edu/events/24-25-mco-virtual-reality)

## January 24 - February 9

### Here There Are Blueberries

@McCarter Theatre Center

91 University Pl., Princeton

In 2007, a mysterious album featuring Nazi-era photographs arrived at the desk of a U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum archivist. As curators unraveled the shocking truth behind the images, the album made headlines and ignited. Based on real events, Here There Are Blueberries tells the story of these historical photographs – what they reveal about the perpetrators of the Holocaust, and our own humanity.

Time: Varies | Cost: \$25-\$88

[mccarter.org](https://mccarter.org)

## Saturday, January 25

### Last Saturday of Every Month

#### The Patriots Ghost Tour & Paranormal Experience

@Princeton Tour Company

116 Nassau St., Princeton

Channel your inner George Washington and join the troops for a tour of locations including Aaron Burr Jr.'s childhood home, where Alexander Hamilton shot that famous cannonball, Princeton's Tea Party, the nation's first Capitol, Capital and White House.

Time: 7-9 pm | Cost: \$38

[princetonontourcompany.com](https://princetonontourcompany.com)

## Thursday, January 30

### Sun Ra Arkestra

@Berlind Theatre

McCarter Theatre Center

91 University Pl., Princeton

Founded in the mid-1950s by the innovative Sun Ra, the Arkestra blends big-band swing, space-age jazz, and vibrant Afro-pageantry into their electrifying performances.

Time: 7:30 pm | Cost: \$33-\$68

[mccarter.org](https://mccarter.org)

## Through Sunday, March 2

### Morven Revealed: Untold Stories from New Jersey's Most Historic Home

@Morven Museum & Garden

55 Stockton St., Princeton

As part of Morven's 20th anniversary, learn about the lesser-known stories of the historic home and its residents, such as George Washington, Grace Kelly and Buzz Aldrin. You'll see rarely exhibited objects and newly discovered photographs.

Times: Wednesday-Sunday 10 am to 4 pm

Cost: \$8-\$10

[morven.org](https://morven.org) or 609-924-8144, ext. 103

# Battle of Princeton Re-Enactment

By Todd Quackenbush of PBS Communications

History changed here 248 years ago. The Road to Independence Runs through Princeton.

On the morning of January 3, 1777, General George Washington's army, after an all-night march from Trenton in bone-chilling temperatures, met and defeated British Crown forces.

The victory capped what historians now call the "Ten Crucial Days," in which Washington and the American forces rescued the War for Independence after months of crushing battlefield defeats in New York and New Jersey. Without Washington's successes in Trenton and Princeton, the war would have likely ended in American defeat.

Each year, barring calamitous weather conditions, Princeton Battlefield Society hosts a re-enactment of the Battle of Princeton on the historic battlefield at Princeton Battlefield State Park. The 2025 Experience the Battle of Princeton will be held on Sunday, January 5.

For more information, visit [www.pbs1777.org](http://www.pbs1777.org) or [facebook.com/princeton.battlefield.society](https://facebook.com/princeton.battlefield.society).

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