

Proclamation

Chatham Colony Association 102nd Anniversary

WHEREAS, in 1921 the Chatham Colony Association was formed for the purpose of creating a community to raise families in a rural environ, and members were mostly Eastern European Jewish immigrants who escaped persecution, anti-Semitism and a harsh life in Europe; and

WHEREAS, on October 19, 1922 the Chatham Colony Association Inc. purchased a 145-acre tract of forested land situated west of Lafayette Avenue, between what is now known as Maple Street and Southern Boulevard, herein referred to as The Chatham Colony; and

WHEREAS in 1923-1924, Colony members parceled the land, including a four-acre tract of land at the corner of Spring Street and School Avenue set aside for community activities; the Colony members constructed their own roads, cut down trees, built a water system, community center and recreational area, all of which laid the groundwork for future generations to reside in the Colony section; and

WHEREAS in 1928, the Chatham Colony's Community Pool opened for members and guests to enjoy, next to its Community House and, to this day, the Chatham Colony pool is open every summer for future generations to enjoy, thanks to the foresight of the Chatham Colony members wanting to preserve an idyllic peaceful place; and

WHEREAS, over the course of its forty-seven year history, the Chatham Colony Association contributed to help those in need during World War II, hosting fundraisers and sewing countless baby layettes for war orphans, donated more than \$140,000 to at least 48 charities and persons, and donated their land on Southern Boulevard to build the Fire Department Station; and

WHEREAS, Colony members also volunteered at the fire department, taught art and language classes at the Community House, ran the summer camp for the Colony children, always encouraging the celebration of spiritual and religious freedom; and

WHEREAS, the Chatham Colony Association dissolved on January 1, 1969, but the legacy of the Chatham Colony Association lives on, with the community benefiting from the rich and storied history; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Chatham desire to honor the Chatham Township Historical Society and generational residents including Karen Blumenfeld, upon the occasion of the 102nd anniversary of The Chatham Colony Association.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Chatham, that we hereby recognize 2024 as the 102nd celebration of the Chatham Colony Association, and that the entire community offers its recognition of all those who endeavored to create the Chatham Colony, and to those who continue to honor, preserve and celebrate its unique history and positive impact on generations who enjoy what we still call The Chatham Colony section of Chatham Township.



Stacey Ewald, Mayor