

# JACKSON COMMUNITY PROFILE

JUNE 2001



## **I. DEFINING THE SERVICE AREA**

Jackson Branch is unique in the branch system in that it is relatively isolated from the nearest branch. Its location at the center of the township makes it accessible or not, depending on the residence of the person being asked.

The overwhelming number of patrons (12,976) lists their residence as Jackson. In descending order, users of the Jackson Branch who have addresses outside are Toms River (111), New Egypt (97), Lakewood (55), and Brick (50). The indication that the branch service area is confined largely to the township's borders is borne out by both the number of residents listed on the recall report and the pin-the-map project held in January-February 1993. The map project demonstrated that the branch occupied the geographical center of the service area, with only slight overlaps into Howell and Lakewood Townships.

## **II. JACKSON DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

The population of Jackson Township has increased greatly in the past ten years transforming the once rural community to a suburb. This influx of new residents has outpaced the rate of growth in Ocean County as a whole, as illustrated by this comparison:

<b>Ocean County Population      1990</b>	433,203	
<b>Ocean County Population      2000</b>	510,916	+17.9%
<b>Jackson Township Population      1990</b>	33,233	
<b>Jackson Township Population      2000</b>	42,816	+28.8%

In 1997, Jackson reported 594 births, making it the fourth highest of municipalities after Lakewood Township (1539), Dover Township (938) and Brick Township (892). However, most of the growth in population has occurred as the result of migrations from other areas.

According to the 2000 Census, Jackson currently has a population of 42,816, with the breakdown according to ethnic classification:

<b>Ethnic Classification</b>	<b>Total Number</b>	<b>Percentage of Population</b>
White	39,073	91.3
Hispanic	2474	5.8
African American	1670	3.8
Asian	882	2.1
American Indian/Alaskan	57	.01
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	3	-

The Township is nearly split down the middle as to sexual makeup, with males constituting 20,911 or 48.8% of the total, and females numbering 21,905 or 51.2%.

The median age for the Township is 35.2 years, an increase from the 31.9 years recorded in the 1990 Census. This is a reflection of the median age increase for the county as a whole. The Township breakdown according to age is as follows:

<b>Age</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 5	2804	8.4	3515	8.2
5-9	2573	7.7	3832	8.9
10-14	2327	7.0	3583	8.4
15-19	2177	6.6	2726	6.4
20-24	2199	6.6	1829	4.3
25-34	6671	15.6	5755	13.4
35-44	5426	12.7	8883	20.7
45-54	3471	8.1	5492	12.8
55-59	1266	3.0	1793	4.2
60-64	1131	2.6	1399	3.3
65-74	990	2.3	1325	3.1
85 & up	313	0.9	456	1.1

There are a total of 14,640 housing units in Jackson, with 14,176 of the total identified as households. Of these, their owners occupy 12,352 and 1,824 are rental units. The median value of a home is \$137,017 (1999 figure), which is a drop from the \$143,100 listed in the 1990 Census.

Households in the Township are broken down into two main designations, family households (11,264) and non-family households (2912). Of the family households, 9461 are identified as a married couple, 5296 of them with their own children less than 18 years of age. Households headed by a female with no husband present numbered 1258, with 681 of them with a child under 18 years of age. Of the non-family households 2267 have the householder living alone, with 860 householders being 65 or older.

### III. HISTORY

Jackson Township is a classic example of a municipality becoming a suburb after existing for many years as a rural area. European settlement commenced shortly after Richard Nicholls, English governor of New York, granted the Monmouth Patent in April 1665 to twelve families who had already settled in Middletown on lands purchased from the native Indians. Settlers were generally of English descent coming from the New York area, especially Long Island, or in some cases, were whalers who had moved inland from the coast.

The trickle of settlement continued through the years and, when the state legislature created the township in March, 1844, the population was 800, scattered in a series of isolated hamlets and villages, interspersed with sawmills, gristmills and large farms of a hundred acres or more. The community's prosperity was dependent, in those times, on a successful harvest. Other early industries were cranberry cultivation, charcoal and tar production, and for a short time oil drilling, an unproductive venture.

Some discussion centers on the origin of Jackson's name. Some subscribe to the notion that the township was named after William Jackson who owned a sawmill at Jackson's Mills, but recent historians dismissed the suggestion pointing out that there were citizens much more prominent and affluent at the time. The general consensus is that the name honors President Andrew Jackson.

During the early 20th century, the population varied according to economic fortunes. Munitions testing at Lakehurst Naval Air Station <http://www.lakehurst.navy.mil/> originally brought 1,000 people to the area. Poultry farming boomed in the 1940's, but by 1955 was dead, when Perdue moved its operations to the Maryland/Delaware area. Because of that collapse, land values decreased sharply, setting the stage for development into suburbia.



Jackson's history was influenced by a large community of Russians who began arriving in significant numbers in 1934, but had been an earlier presence when the Lakehurst testing center tested ammunition for the Tsar. The influx came with the founding of ROVA Farms in 1934. ROVA (a Russian contraction of Russian Consolidated Mutual Aid Society), a burial aid society, used surplus funds to buy 1,400 acres of the old Van Rise estate at \$10.00 an acre. The restaurant and bungalows were built in the 1930's, along with the two onion-domed churches, St. Vladimir's Memorial Church (1937) and St. Mary's (1938).

Since the 1950s, with the older generation dying out and younger generations relocating, the population has dwindled; about 10% of the original population remains. While once the celebration of St. Vladimir's Day would draw upwards of 50,000 people, more recent gatherings draw 1,000 to 2,000 people. Still, since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989, there has been an increase in the number of younger Russian émigrés, an indication that interest in the culture may see a revival.

With the collapse of the poultry industry, and declining land values, the next stage of development did not occur until 1960, when developer Robert Smertz took advantage of low property prices and built 2,000 homes in a development know as the Brookwoods. Other developers followed.

Today Jackson is totally suburban, with over 65% of its 24,250 over-18 adults commuting to work in Trenton, North Jersey, New York, and even to the casinos in Atlantic City. The population has more than doubled in the past 30 years, from 15,000 in 1,890 dwelling units in 1960, to 18,300 in 1970, 25,600 in 1980 and 33,300 in 11,833 dwelling units in 1990. The 2000 Census indicates even more growth: 42,816 residents living in 14,640 units. That is a far cry from the 800 souls who inhabited the small hamlets in 1844.

Jackson has a Township Committee form of government, consisting of five members elected to three-year staggered terms. A mayor is selected from one of the committeemen to serve one-year terms. The committee meets twice a month. <http://www.twp.jackson.nj.us/>

Other Jackson Township links:

<http://www.twp.jackson.nj.us/township/index.htm>

<http://www.nj.com/newhomes/community/jackson.html>

[http://www.app.com/newcomersguide/townprofiles\\_ocn/jackson.html](http://www.app.com/newcomersguide/townprofiles_ocn/jackson.html)

<http://www.jacksonchamber.com/Tourism/History/history.html>

<http://www.switlik.com/>

#### **IV. TOPOGRAPHY AND LAND USE**

Jackson Township is the third largest municipality in New Jersey and the largest in Ocean County. Located in the northwest corner of Ocean County, it encompasses 100.3 square miles (64,192 acres) and shares its borders with eight other municipalities, four in Monmouth County, and four (Manchester, Plumsted, Dover, and Lakewood Townships) in Ocean County. Because of its location, Jackson is in the geographical center of the state, within easy driving distance to major metropolitan areas, most notably New York (55 miles), Trenton (30 miles), Newark (45 miles), and Philadelphia (40 miles).

Jackson lies in the Atlantic Coastal Plain, and consequently displays the topographical features associated with the region: low-lying and flat, with the average elevation at 50-60 feet above sea level. The highest elevation in Jackson -and indeed in the county is 220 feet. A region of pine, mixed trees, and sandy soil, the township lists as its natural resources sand, clay, and gravel, which is mined on a small scale, especially titanium sand, which is used for pigments by the paint industry. Another valuable resource is the natural ground water. Jackson sits within two major drainage basins, the Atlantic Coast Basin and the Delaware River Basin. Two major streams, the Metedeconk and Toms Rivers, traverse the township. Because of the continental type climate, the winters are generally cool and the summers generally warm, with the four-season round experienced by most of the Mid-Atlantic States.

The township contains 12,000 acres of the Colliers Mills Wildlife Management area. Forty-eight percent of the township is undeveloped Pinelands, while 33% of the land will never be developed unless the Federal government relinquishes title. Included among the Federal properties is the Lakehurst Naval Air Station, a testing ground for ammunition intended for the army of the Russian Tsar, which was used for mustard gas during World War I, and now tests jet aircraft catapults.

The total municipal area is 64,432 acres, of which 25,114 acres are available for development. Of this, 10,793, or 16.8% of the total, have been developed. Fifty percent of the land area falls within the Pinelands designation. Combined, the state and the federal government own approximately 19,619 acres or 30.5% of the total. A great deal of development has taken place since 1986 (see Appendix C) when growth spread from the densely populated eastern portion, to the more rural western portion.

## **V. COMMERCE**

Jackson has gone through various periods of economic development, from its earliest days as a farming community, with timber cutting and its related charcoal and tar industries being predominant in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Cranberry cultivation became a major cash crop after the Civil War, with as many as 260 bogs in operation, until lowered prices caused small time operators to give way to large farms. Horse breeding and racing was also a large part of Jackson life, and remains part of its character to this day. The poultry industry grew and flourished through the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, but it, too, collapsed under the weight of competition and sharply higher feed prices, eventually dying by 1960. Empty chicken coups can still be spotted.

Since that time, Jackson has developed primarily as a commuter community, with little industry of note. The chief industries are Professional Services (health services, education and public administration, retail (small businesses, “mom and pop” operations, Great Adventure, and Six Flags Outlet Center), and manufacturing (small-scale operations in plastics, concrete, tool and die, titanium sand, and electrical apparatus.)

According to 1997 economic data compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau, the township has 361 industries of various types, including retail trade (90), wholesale trade (33), professional/scientific/technical services (41), health care/social assistance (35) and accommodation/food services (37).

The largest business, one tied directly to tourism and therefore seasonal, is Six Flags Great Adventure Theme Park and Wild Safari, [www.sixflags.com/greatadventure](http://www.sixflags.com/greatadventure), located in the northwestern corner of the township. This huge complex has slightly fewer than 200 full time employees, and employs between 5000 and 6000 seasonal employees from April, making it an obvious major source of employment for Jackson and other local youth. Six Flags Great Adventure actively recruits at local job fairs and at the Jackson High School.

The second largest commercial operation in Jackson, opened in 1997, is the Six Flags Outlet Center, [www.sixflagsfactoryoutlets.com](http://www.sixflagsfactoryoutlets.com), located about a mile from Great Adventure. Six Flags Outlet Center has 71 stores, mostly national chain outlet stores. There are no plans (or room, for that matter) for expansion. The outlet center employs about 400 employees year around, with a few seasonal employees around the December holidays.

The total civilian labor force in Jackson in 1998 was 19,454. A more specific break-up of figures from the 1990 census (total 17,927) includes managers & professionals (4,450), technicians, sales & administrative support (5,705), service occupations (1,704), farming, fishing, and forestry (315), precision products, craft, & repair (2,513), operators, fabricators, & laborers (2,136), and self employed persons (920). According to the Municipal Reference Guide – New Jersey – Southern Edition, 1999, 6,357 Jackson residents work within Ocean County, 9,349 outside the county, and 1,035 outside the state. Average commuting time is 29.9 minutes.

As Jackson enters the new millennium, more commercial ventures are planned. In the planning stage, or already begun, are professional office buildings, warehousing, retail and wholesale trade, assisted living facilities and an ice skating rink.

## **VI. TRANSPORTATION**

Jackson is a commuter community. With little industry or retail trade, the practice is to drive to work in the morning and return home in the evening.

The township, being the largest in Ocean County, is spread out, with no real center that can be called a business district or "downtown." Public transportation is lacking, making automobile the primary transport. Bus lines do run to New York City, but Jackson residents must travel to stops on Route 9, a road outside the township. The Transportation routes for buses, trains, and light rail can be found at this web address: <http://www.njtransit.state.nj.us/> or

The local Bus routes are Number 307, 309. Traveling To Six Flags Great Adventure, Outlet Mall, Freehold Center, Howell, and Lakewood.

- Route 559 is the bus line for Lakewood to Atlantic City.
- Route 137 serves Toms River to New York.
- Route 139 serves route 9. Lakewood – Old Bridge – to New York. This is the commuter run used mostly by Jackson residents to travel to work. This bus can be picked up in Robin Estates at 5:38 am or 6:17 am. The stop in Howell Township on Route 9 can be picked up about every half hour to New York City.

\* Route 64/67 serves Lakewood, Jersey City, Weehawken, Toms River, and Lakewood to Newark.

- Route 317 serves Asbury Park, Fort Dix, to Philadelphia
- Route 319 serves New York, Atlantic City, and Wildwood (seasonal for Cape May).
- Rail: North Jersey Coast Line with Bayhead being the last stop from Pennsylvania Station.
- Path Trains: From Hoboken
- AMTRAK: Princeton, Trenton, New Brunswick, and Middlesex
- Septa: <http://www.septa.com>
- Ferry Services: <http://www.nywaterway.com>

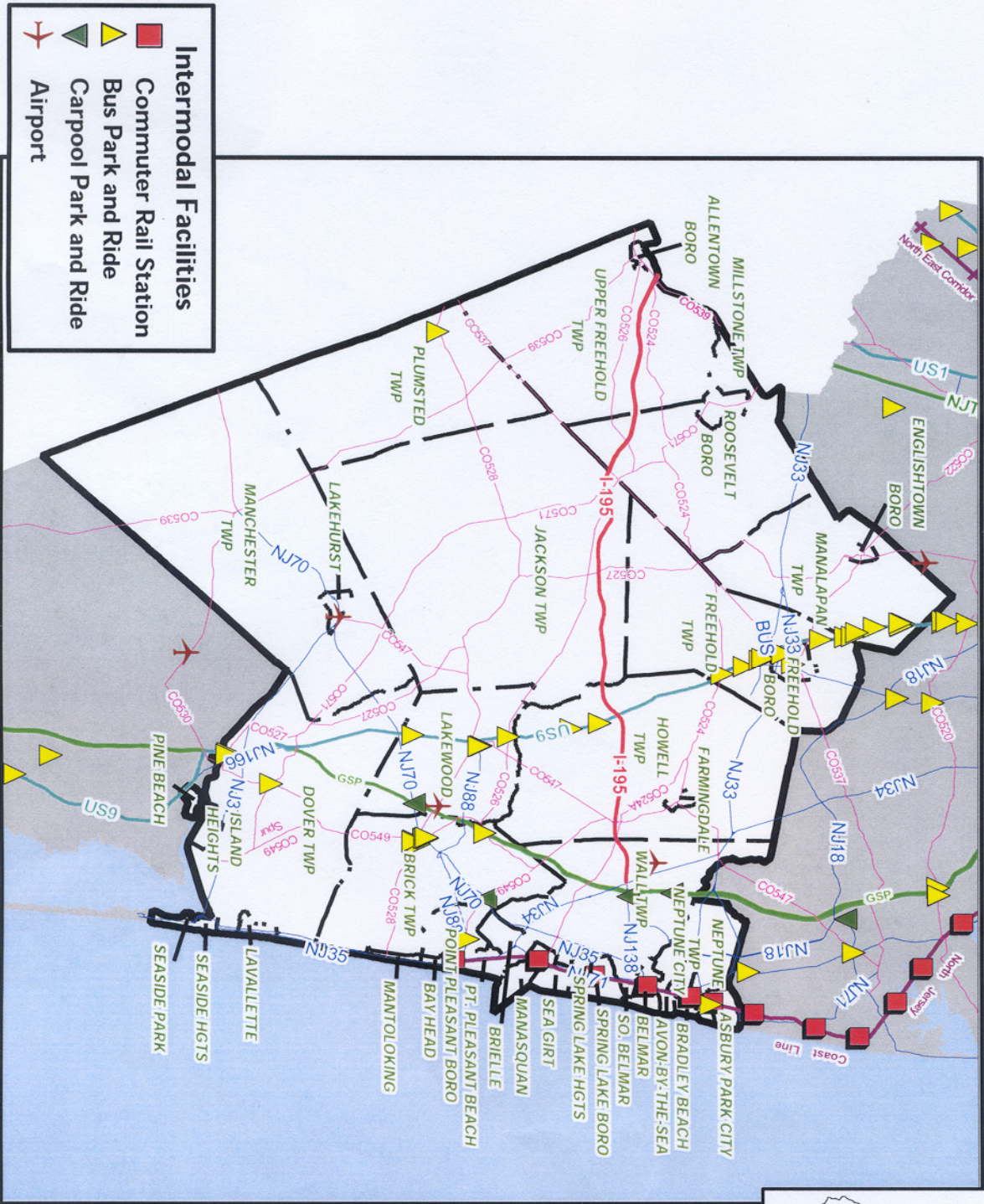
Jackson Township does sponsor a bus that picks up older adults at the Senior Center and takes them shopping.

The pattern of development follows two paths. The eastern section is largely developed, with single-family homes on 100' x 100' lots, and consequent traffic congestion. In the western section larger holdings by acreage are common, but the roads are very heavily traveled throughout Jackson Township and will continue to experience heavy use as development spreads.

Jackson is crossed by many roads, but the major ones are, going generally north to south, County Routes 571, 527, and 526, and east to west Routes 636, 638 and Interstate 195. With the exception of Interstate 195, the roads are two-lane with an average 40 MPH speed limit.

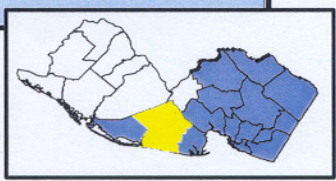
Jackson Township is part of Corridor 18, which facilitates movement along Interstate 195, NJ 33, NJ 70 and NJ 37 between Mercer and Burlington counties and the Jersey Shore communities in Monmouth and Ocean counties (see Appendix C). There are 229,632 commuters residing in the 17 municipalities of Corridor 18; Jackson constitutes 2.9%, or 6660 of these commuters. Of the 177,473 commuters coming to work sites within Corridor 18, 5.2% or 9228 of them are coming to work in Jackson. This means a lot of people moving, and the changing character of travel within the Corridor, from seasonal tourist to a permanent settlement pattern, place new and greater demands on the system. Jackson Township, as an area experiencing double-digit growth, has impacted road conditions, especially with the expansion of Great Adventure and the construction of the factory outlet center. Future development in Jackson, which has a favorable Pinelands designation for growth, will increase pressure on local roads that provide connections to major east-west highways in the corridor. A notable problem is the intersection of CO 537 and Interstate 195, where congestion, especially during the summer tourist season, causes back-ups onto the interstate.

# CORRIDOR 18



**Intermodal Facilities**

- Commuter Rail Station
- ▲ Bus Park and Ride
- ▲ Carpool Park and Ride
- ✈ Airport



## **VII. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**

Many different types of organizations are active in Jackson, including civic, fraternal, cultural, and military. A complete listing appears below:

Amvets Post #2  
Knights of Columbus  
Jackson Kiwanis – [www.kiwanis.com](http://www.kiwanis.com)  
Jackson Lions  
Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #1459  
Policeman's Benevolent Association  
Jackson Prospertown Schoolhouse Museum  
Jackson Chapter of Deborah  
American Legion, Jackson Post #504  
Jackson Disabled American Veterans Chapter #77  
Jackson Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #4703  
Jackson Chamber of Commerce  
Jackson Women of Today  
Jackson Township Democratic Headquarters  
Jackson Township Republican Headquarters  
Jackson Township Republicans for Jackson Hdqrts.  
Jackson Township Municipal Alliance  
Jackson Township Community Alliance for the Prevention of  
Alcohol and Drug Abuse (CAPADA)  
Jackson Pathfinders  
Jackson Clergy Association  
Central Jersey Italian American Club  
Moms Club of Jackson  
Seniors Who Care, Inc.  
Tomorrow's Hope  
Black Knight Bow Benders, Inc.  
Cassville Seven-Buck Club  
Central Jersey Rifle and Pistol Club – [www.cjrpc.com](http://www.cjrpc.com)  
Green Thumb Garden Club  
Jackson Soccer Club  
Jackson Township Little League  
Holbrook Little League  
Jackson Pop Warner  
Jackson Council for the Arts  
Jackson Civic Chorus

Jackson Summer Theatre  
Jackson Festival for the Arts  
Jackson Youth Chorus  
Jackson Civic Chamber Ensemble  
Holman Theater Group

While all clubs are significant and contribute to the community, there are several that make their presence known by their activities. A brief discussion of them follows:

LIONS INTERNATIONAL - This organization's mission is to inform the public of blindness. They collect eyeglasses for recycling; raise money for people who need operations, and participate with other groups in raising money for anything or anyone who need help in Jackson.

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL - Comprised of young business people, their emphasis is on children and health. They are very strong in anti-drug seminars for young people.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL - A group of concerned business owners who raise money to further improve the quality of life for any township resident.

ELKS - A very strong service organization whose specialty is handicapped children and veterans. The Elks own a camp for handicapped children.

WOMEN OF TODAY - Formerly Jaycee Women, disbanded in 1984 when women were admitted to Jaycees. This organization specializes in raising money for sick children.

NOTE: The above organizations provide scholarships to local students.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - An organization connected with the Roman Catholic Church. This group is very strong, and lends out it's building at no charge for meetings. Very involved in feeding the hungry and helping retarded citizens.

## **VIII. RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT**

Jackson Township still retains a large proportion of undeveloped land. About 20 percent of the township's land area is developed, and another 35 percent can still be developed in the future. Jackson includes the headwaters of three major freshwater tributary streams. Consequently, there are many opportunities for outdoor sports such as hunting, fishing and canoeing. There are ball fields, tennis courts, and eight parks, including the Lake Enno Recreation Facility on Lakeview Drive. This is the newest facility and it houses fishing and boat-launching pier, an observation deck, a small nature trail, picnic tables and grills. The Jackson Recreation Department offers summer camp sessions, arts and crafts programs, women's and men's basketball and tennis lessons. ([http://www.twp.jackson.nj.us/active/recreate/rec\\_mis.htm](http://www.twp.jackson.nj.us/active/recreate/rec_mis.htm)) Jackson is the home to many independent recreational organizations, including Holbrook Little League (<http://www.leaguelineup.com/directors.asp?url+holbrook>), Pop Warner Football (<http://www.jspwfl.org/franchise.1.html#Jackson>), Jackson Men's Slow-Pitch Softball, Lucy Holman Theater Company, Jackson Little League, Jackson Soccer (<http://www.jacksonsoccer.com>) Jackson Memorial Men's Softball and Jackson Women's Softball. A Senior Center provides a meeting place for the elderly. There are various campgrounds, including Jellystone Park Camp Area, Camp Toby, Butterfly Campground, Maple Lake Campground, and Tip-Tam Campground.

Due to a lack of meeting places, recreational activities are commonly focused on the home, for instance in backyard pools, during the summer. Lacking are such cultural centers as a museum (except for the Schoolhouse Museum), theaters, galleries and colleges. There is a 1,000-seat auditorium at the Jackson High School, which provides adequate space for cultural events. The new Jackson Branch will provide a meeting room with a seating capacity of 95. Despite the growing population of the township, there is no movie theater within the township, nor is there a bowling alley. Residents travel to the Howell Lanes in Howell to go bowling and they travel to Toms River or Freehold to go to the movies. Jackson does have its' own skating rink, the Jackson Skating Center, which has limited hours of operation. A new ice skating rink, Ice Planet, has been approved for future construction.

The main recreational provider located in Jackson is, of course, Six Flags Great Adventure, which consists of a 350-acre wild animal safari, exciting rides and attractions, water-adventure park, and more. (<http://www.sixflags.com/greatadventure>). The Six Flags Factory Outlets provide over seventy stores, from J. Crew to Nike. (<http://www.shopjackson.com/outlets>).

Local events include a Veterans Day Parade and the Jackson Day Celebration. The concept of Jackson Day began in 1931, but was celebrated on an annual basis beginning in 1976. The Jersey shore is close at hand; so many residents enjoy the

beaches during the summer. For residents of Russian descent, and those interested in Russian culture, the annual celebration of St. Vladimir's Day is held at the St. Vladimir Memorial Church on the last Sunday of each July. Participants can enjoy ethnic food, purchase religious icons or Baltic amber, and attend services honoring the prince who converted Russia to Christianity in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century.

## **IX. LIFESTYLE**

Although small farms are scattered throughout the township, Jackson is predominately a commuter community, consisting of single-family homes, townhouses and condominiums. The last decade has brought a surge of building to Jackson resulting in many new developments of single-family housing. Older developments such as Brookwood and Bennett's Mills are comprised of smaller homes on smaller lots this is due to the availability of public water and sewers in these sections of the township. The oldest and smallest of communities are often found at crossroads, such as Whitesville and Cassville. There are presently 14,640 housing units with a median home value of \$137,017 (1999).

Because of Jackson's proximity to New York City, and its relatively lower cost of living vis-à-vis North Jersey, the township's growth can be attributed to the desire for young families to own homes but remain within commuting distance to the city. However, high home prices and taxes attract mainly upper scale residents. The township's mobile home parks provide affordable living. Jackson has three relatively new adult communities they are Winding Ways, Greenbrier and West Lake.

The only military installation is the Naval Air Engineering Center at Lakehurst, [www.lakehurst.navy.mil/nlweb/](http://www.lakehurst.navy.mil/nlweb/). The base employs approximately 1788 people but only a small number of military personnel (###) are listed as living in the township.

There are no hospitals in Jackson; residents must travel to neighboring townships for hospital care. The three closest hospitals are CentraState, [www.centrastate.com](http://www.centrastate.com), a 241 bed medical facility located in Freehold Township (Monmouth County); Kimball Medical Center, [www.sbhcs.com/hospitals/kimbal\\_medical](http://www.sbhcs.com/hospitals/kimbal_medical), in Lakewood has a 350 bed capacity; and Community Medical Center, [www.sbhcs.com/hospitals/community\\_medical](http://www.sbhcs.com/hospitals/community_medical), located in Toms River is the largest with 596 beds. Currently, within Jackson, there are several levels of health care available exclusively for seniors. The two health and skilled care facilities (nursing homes) are Jackson Health Care and Bartley Manor. The adult day care is provided at Young at Heart. Presently, Bella Tara is the only assisted living facility, another, The Orchards, is under construction.

The township's Senior Citizens Community Center, [www.twp.jackson.nj.us/seniors](http://www.twp.jackson.nj.us/seniors), serves as a meeting place for area seniors. Although there is no official tally of members, the rosters of the two clubs which meet there shows about 600 members who regularly attend. These two clubs, Seniors Who Care and Jackson Senior Citizens, meet at the center three times a month. They meet to discuss club business, enjoy occasional entertainment, socialize, and plan trips. Trips to such locations as New York City happen once or twice weekly, and the groups catch their buses at the center. A monthly calendar of events is distributed at the center. There is no mailing list, however the calendar can be found on their web site.



Before 1948, the township children were educated in small, one-room schoolhouses scattered in various hamlets. In 1948, the Switlik Elementary School, [www.jacksonsd.k12.nj.us/switlik/default.html](http://www.jacksonsd.k12.nj.us/switlik/default.html) was consolidated from the others. It was named for Stanley Switlik a local philanthropist, who donated the land upon which the school was built. It has the largest student body of Jackson's four elementary schools, with an enrollment figure of 1,357, of which 1,264 are white, 50 are black, 26 are Hispanic and 17 are Asian/pacific island.

The second elementary school, Sylvia Rosenauer Elementary School, [www.jacksonsd.k12.nj.us/rosenauer](http://www.jacksonsd.k12.nj.us/rosenauer), was built 14 years later in 1962. It was formerly called the Brookwood School but was renamed for Sylvia Rosenauer a Jackson resident and principal of the school from its opening until her retirement in 1978. It has the smallest number of enrollment, 519 students of which 425 are white, 31 are black, 46 are Hispanic and 17 are Pacific/pacific Island.

Lucy N. Holman Elementary School, [www.jacksonsd.k12.nj.us/holman/default.htm](http://www.jacksonsd.k12.nj.us/holman/default.htm) was added in 1969. Interestingly, this school was named to honor Lucy N. Holman who served as principal in Switlik from its opening and for the next 16 years. School enrollment is 738, of which 667 are white, 16 are black, 32 are Hispanic and 13 are Asian/pacific island

Howard C. Johnson Elementary School, [www.jacksonsd.k12.nj.us/johnson/index.html](http://www.jacksonsd.k12.nj.us/johnson/index.html), was also added in 1969. Its enrollment figures are very close to those of the Holman School. Total student body is 753 with 693 white students, 16 black, 21 Hispanic and 23 Asian/pacific island. The school was named to honor a native Jackson resident who was the first Jackson student to graduate high school. Mr. Johnson went on to teach in the Jackson schools and

championed the course of a central school in Jackson, which ultimately ended with the building of the Switlik School.

All of the township's elementary schools are from kindergarten to fourth grade. A fifth elementary school Crawford-Rodriguez Elementary School is scheduled for a September 2001 opening. It has a projected enrollment of 980 and it too will be from K-4<sup>th</sup> grade. Jackson's sixth elementary school, pending voter approval in an upcoming referendum question, will be located on Patterson Road.

Jackson built its first middle school in 1974, the Carl W. Goetz Middle School, [www.jacksonsd.k12.nj.us/goetz/index.html](http://www.jacksonsd.k12.nj.us/goetz/index.html). This school was named after a long time resident of the township who served on the Jackson Board of Education for 27 years. Mr. Goetz saw the completion of several schools during his tenure. School enrollment is 1,569 with 1,392 white, 80 black, 56 Hispanic and 41 Asian/pacific Island. It is from grades fifth through eighth. Due to the overcrowded classrooms and the need for a fitness room an addition was begun in the summer of 2000 and has not yet been completed.

The Christa McAuliffe Middle School, [www.jacksonsd.k12.nj.us/mcauliffe/](http://www.jacksonsd.k12.nj.us/mcauliffe/), opened in 1993. A school/community committee decision named the building after the teacher who died in the 1986 Space Shuttle Challenger explosion. It has a smaller student body than the Goetz School with a figure of 1,089. Of this number 944 are white, 53 are black, 68 are Hispanic, 1 is American Indian/Alaskan native and 23 are Asian/pacific Island. The grade range is from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>.

Jackson Memorial High School, [www.jacksonsd.k12.nj.us/highschool/index.html](http://www.jacksonsd.k12.nj.us/highschool/index.html) is the township's only high school. It opened in 1964. It consists of three wings, Clayton, Memorial and Fine Arts. The Clayton wing was named native Jackson resident Joseph Clayton. Dr. Clayton started as a teacher and became Deputy Commissioner of Education for the State of New Jersey. The school is crowded with enrollment figures of 1,904.5 white, 116 black, 94.5 Hispanic, 5 American Indian/Alaskan native and 58.5 Asian/pacific Island. Total student body of 2,178.5. The high school is from grades 9 through 12.

The Future Directions Committee met in late 1999 and determined that a second high school plus additional expansions for the existing elementary schools were needed. The committee also recognized the need for auxiliary gymnasium facilities at Goetz and upgrades to existing technology labs in the district. Recommendations were made to construct a third middle school and a seventh elementary school by 2005. The web site for the Jackson School District is [www.jacksonsd.k12.nj.us](http://www.jacksonsd.k12.nj.us).

An adult school, serving as adjunct to the public school system, helps adults with courses in humanities, crafts, self-improvement and GED preparation. It has sessions 3-4 nights per week.

Various houses of worship are scattered through the township, including Methodist (2), Baptist, Roman Catholic (2), Russian Orthodox (2), Lutheran, and Jehovah's Witness. Other Christian denominations are the Canaan Christian Church, Christian Life Fellowship, Jesus Harvest Time Ministries, and Faith Bible Church of Jackson. Beth Zion Messianic Synagogue serves the Jackson area, though many residents of Jewish faith use synagogues located in nearby Lakewood.

## **X. COMMUNICATIONS**

Despite continued development, Jackson still does not host any major media companies. The township relies on outside sources of information for the most part. The major ones are listed below:

*Asbury Park Press.* The Press serves Jackson with local news in its Lakewood Edition. Delivery is through home couriers, retail outlets and the local library. <http://www.app.com/>

*Ocean County Observer.* While almost half of the circulation is confined to Dover Township, the Observer does cover Jackson events. Distribution is by home delivery, retail sale, and the local library. <http://www.ocobserver.com/>

*The Trentonian.* While this covers events in Trenton and surrounding communities, there is some interest in the publication in the area, as evidenced by some requests that a subscription be obtained for the local library. <http://www.zwire.com/site/news.asp?brd=1697>

*The Newark Star Ledger.* <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/> and the *New York Times* <http://www.nytimes.com/> are also used by the residents, but use and impact are marginal. There are two functioning local papers, the *Tri-Town News* <http://www.gmnnews.com> and the *Jackson Times*. The *Tri-Town News* is published weekly on Thursdays. It serves the areas of Jackson, Howell, Plumsted and Lakewood. The paper is broken into sections for each area. It is mailed to addresses in all the areas covered and is a source for local news. *The Jackson Times* has a circulation of 10,000, and is published weekly on Fridays. It is delivered to homes all over Jackson, as well as being available for pickup at several locations including the library. It is a good source for local news.

The Jackson School District sends out a quarterly newsletter to all the residents of Jackson. This details the events in the school system, including the calendar and sports. <http://www.jacksonsd.k12.nj.us/>

As for broadcast media serving Jackson, the largest television station is Cablevision of Monmouth, which has an office on Brewers Bridge Road in Jackson. It provides cable television service as well as cable computer service via Opt-on-line. Unfortunately it does not serve the Ocean County communities of Jackson, Lakewood and Howell via public access. It offers a range of stations, from CNN on cable to WNJT on public access.

Radio stations serving Jackson are all located outside the township. They include: WJRZ-FM (Manahawkin), which targets 18-44 year olds; WADB-FM, broadcasting from South Belmar, targets listeners ages 35 and over; WOBFM-FM located in Toms River, has an adult contemporary format aimed at the 18-55 year old bracket; WWFM-FM, headquartered in Trenton, has a format of classical and jazz music and public affairs reporting.

## **XI. OUTLOOK & CONCLUSION**

Based upon recent projections, the future for Jackson Township is one of growth. The challenge will be the need for balance between development and the natural resources that make up so much of the township. As of May 2001, a total of 20,490 lots or units have been approved, and much of the new construction is taking place in the western portions of the township. Among the larger developments either approved or started is:

- Fairview: 2368 Units
- Westlake: 1365 units
- Westlake Mews: 150 units (Affordable housing)
- Leesville Acres: 2273 units
- South Knolls: 1463 units

The continuing influx of new residents will place increasing demands on public services. The township has built a new police station/courthouse at their sixty-seven acre municipal complex, along with soccer, baseball and football fields. A new branch of the Ocean County Library will be open in fall of 2001.

Since opening in 1978, Jackson Branch Library has seen its circulation grow from 15,395 in that year, to 247,018 in 2000, a 1,504% increase. It is a full-service library, offering in addition to books: videotapes, audio-tapes, CD's, periodicals, reference service, and programming for adults and children.

Because of its size, 4,000 square feet, the branch was too small to accommodate the service demands placed upon it, especially with a rapidly expanding patron base. Ground for a new, 24,000 square foot facility was broken in 1999, and the new facility will be open to the public in fall of 2001. The new branch will have room for a 12-station technology lab, meeting room and quiet study area, as well as a coffee café for patrons who like a latte with their reading material. With projected growth continuing to rise, and given, its proximity to the schools, and the influx of young families with children needing juvenile library services, a new, larger branch facility cannot be built too soon.

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John Glace June 2001

