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BUSINESS, 7A

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YELP’S 2026 TOP 100 PASTA PLACES IN THE U.S.



“A great Italian deli is about having integrity and respecting your customers,” said Domenick Discenza, owner of Sapore Ravioli in Middlesex. PROVIDED BY SAPORE

One of America’s best is here in Central Jersey

Sapore has shared Italian traditions and family recipes in Middlesex for 55 years

Cheryl Makin
MyCentralJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

National Pasta Day is Oct. 17, and L&D Sapore Ravioli & Cheese in Middlesex has even more reason to celebrate. The longtime family-run shop was recently named to Yelp’s 2026 list of the Top 100 Pasta Places in the U.S.

For more than 55 years, the Discenza family has shared Italian traditions, family recipes and fresh pasta with the Middlesex-area community through its deli and pasta shop. “To be recognized among the best pasta destinations in the country makes it even more special,” Executive Chef Domenick F. Discenza said in a social media post. “Thank you to everyone

who has supported Sapore throughout the years. We’re proud to represent New Jersey on this national list.” Yelp’s Top 100 Pasta Places of 2026 showcases trattorias, pasta shops and markets across the U.S., ranked using Yelp data and community reviews. This is Yelp’s first list of top pasta places, spurred by a 52% increase in searches for “pasta shops” from September 2025 through August 2026 compared with the previous 12 months.

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Can you help solve these NJ cold cases?

Unidentified Bodies project calls on sleuths

Brian Johnston
Asbury Park Press
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

The Unidentified Bodies project engages the public as citizen sleuths to help solve unidentified remains cases and bring answers and closure to families whose loved ones have vanished. Using publicly available information, on-location visuals and carefully selected music, each story highlights the clues, circumstances and unanswered questions surrounding these cases.

Mystery of woman found along NJ Turnpike continues

Woman’s identity found shot to death near NJ Turnpike in 1977, remains unsolved. Examine the clues left behind to help authorities solve this mystery. Contact the New Jersey State Police Major Crime Bureau at 609-882-2000.

Woman struck by a train in Brielle in 2008

The body of a young woman is found after being struck by a train in Brielle in 2008. Who she was remains a mystery. Can you help identify her from several unique clues found at the scene? Contact the NJ Transit Police at 973-491-8381.

Human remains found in Howell in 2008

Skeletal remains of a young man found in Howell in 2008, remain a mystery despite unique clothing and a memorial bracelet found at the scene.

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Charity seeks Halloween costumes for kids in need

Drive aims to outfit thousands statewide

Stephanie Noda
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USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

Jersey Cares is making sure every child is ready to trick-or-treat this Halloween season by hosting a donation drive that will provide costumes to thousands of kids across the state. “Dressing as their favorite cartoon character or using their imagination to step into that kind of fantasy world for a night, we think that it’s very important to provide that experience to any child in New Jersey,” said Meagan Muller, director of volunteer programs at the nonprofit. Jersey Cares has hosted the drive,

which is running until Oct. 19, for about 15 years and typically distributes costumes to 5,000 students across the state, Muller said. Last year, the organization worked with 50 groups, schools and other nonprofit organizations to give out 5,200 costumes. Muller said Halloween costumes may not always fit in the family budget but are an important item to make sure kids can have fun during the holiday season. This year, 64 organizations from 10 counties requested over 9,500 costumes for children in their communities, she said. “When we think about our other donation drives, not to say that a costume isn’t an essential item, but it’s not quite the caliber of a coat or hygiene items,” Muller said. “But when there are

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A child shows her chosen costume from the Jersey Scare Halloween Costume Drive in October 2025. PROVIDED BY JERSEY CARES

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