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Daily Record

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North Jersey reacts to more than 2,000 dead in Iran

Hannan Adely

NorthJersey.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

Iranian Americans are watching mass protests ripple across Iran with a mix of hope, fear and vigilance, as demonstrators challenge a government that has ruled since 1979 – and face a violent crackdown in response.

Many say this moment feels different

from any they have seen before. Unlike past protest movements, the demonstrations have drawn support from across Iranian society, fueling cautious hopes that it could pose a real challenge to Iran's leadership.

"We are hoping it is going to be a revolution. We are hoping it is that kind of movement," said Farah, a Bergen County resident who asked to withhold her last name over concerns of retaliation.

"I think, for the first time, every sector in Iran is involved," said her husband, Hormoz. "It's just self-explosion of the people and really something that had no designated leader. It just erupted all around the country. Not only Tehran. For the first time, even small towns and villages have risen up."

Demonstrations spread across Iran in late December after the country's currency collapsed and prices for basic

goods soared. What began as protests over economic hardship quickly escalated into widespread calls for an end to the regime.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been a theocracy since 1979, after a revolution toppled the Western-aligned monarchy. Since 1989, it has been headed by Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, who holds

See IRAN, Page 5A



Renderings of a mixed use project approved to replace the parking lot near Morristown Train Station on Lackawanna Place, with 89 residential units and over 5,000 square feet of retail space. PROVIDED BY MHS ARCHITECTURE

Developer gets \$40 million for Morristown station housing

William Westhoven

Morristown Daily Record

USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

Another big redevelopment project is taking shape around Morristown's New Jersey Transit station.

With construction already underway, commercial real estate firm CBRE announced last week that it has secured a \$40 million loan for Morristown Station, an 89-unit apartment complex going up next door to the rail station.

Dallas, Texas-based CBRE has lined up funding through Truist Bank, according to the Jan. 8 announcement.

Rising over a former parking lot behind the train station, the property will feature 5,111 square feet of retail space on the ground floor, with three floors of residences above. Initial construction began late last year. An estimated completion date was not available.

Morristown Station will paired with

another project across the street at 22 Lafayette Ave., where developer Morristown Associates will build "The Metro." Replacing the shopping center anchored by Staples, that redevelopment will create 126 rental apartments, subsidized retail spaces and 100 extended-stay hotel units. The units will have a maximum stay of six months and an expected minimum of five days.

While those two projects were designed separately, town officials say they've combined to further the vision of creating a transit village, with easy access for both new tenants and commuters coming into town for work. Both developments were approved by the Morristown Planning Board in January 2025 after years of negotiations.

"Morristown Station represents a best-in-class, transit-oriented residential opportunity that addresses the growing demand for both market-rate and affordable housing in Morristown," Matthew Pizzolato, a CBRE senior vice-

president, said in the funding announcement.

Morristown Station will feature a mix of 76 market-rate apartments and 13 affordable housing units, along with the retail space. About three-quarters of the units will be two-bedroom apartments, with the balance consisting of studio and one-bedroom layouts.

"I think they hit a home run with the design," Mayor Tim Dougherty said when the project was approved last year. "I think it will be an award-winning transit development."

New Jersey sets standards for designating Transit Village districts, which are eligible for priority funding, grants and other benefits. To qualify, a municipality must document that multiple transit-oriented development projects are planned for an area within a half mile of a station. Morristown was declared as a Transit Village in 1999.

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Roxbury confirms ICE officials scouted warehouse

William Westhoven

Morristown Daily Record

USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

Representatives with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement were in Roxbury on Jan. 14, apparently scouting a Route 46 warehouse as a possible migrant deportation facility, local officials in the Morris County town said that day.

The visit came the morning after Roxbury's council passed a resolution opposing the rumored siting of an ICE

See ICE, Page 3A



Political Stile

Charles Stile

USA TODAY NETWORK

Murphy's farewell address takeaways

Gov. Philip D. Murphy took a victory lap in his final State of the State address on Jan. 13 – which comes as no surprise. It's the public relations prerogative of all outgoing governors in their final moment in the Statehouse spotlight.

He celebrated the macroeconomic successes of his administration, offered a mild defense of his diplomatic style in dealing with Donald J. Trump, and expressed an anxiety that Trenton will revert to its kick-the-can-down-the-road fiscal recklessness once he hands the reins next week to his successor, Gov.-elect Mikie Sherrill.

Here are eight takeaways from Tuesday's speech for context:

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