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**DEAR FELLOW GRADUATES,**  
As David Brearley’s Class of 2020 President, I would like to congratulate us on becoming a truly unique class. I know we have all worked extremely hard over these last four years. It breaks my heart knowing that we all walked out of David Brearley back in March not realizing that it would truly be our last day of high school. This isn't what we expected our final months of high school to be, but it's definitely one we will always remember. In life, we will have many curve balls thrown our way and it's in those times that our character will shine through. How we respond to those difficult times will matter the most. So even though we may or may not have a traditional graduation, remember that there is much to be grateful for and focus on all the things that this pandemic has helped us realize. Congratulations to you all and best wishes on your next adventure, whether that's college, trade school, military, or anything else!

*Kaitlyn Perdigao*  
David Brearley’s Class of 2020 President



*Adjangba-Tesia      Aleixo-Valeria      Antczak-Taylor*  
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# BUSINESS + LIFE KENILWORTH

Kenilworth Business Life is published by Renna Media.

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## STEVANIE RHIM RECEIVES 2020 MARC HARDY HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

Stevanie Rhim, a senior at David Brearley Middle-High School, was recognized for her commitment to raising awareness and concern for the values and importance of human rights in a video ceremony on April 26, 2020 and presented with the 2020 Marc Wesley Hardy Human Rights Award by the First Congressional Church of Westfield.

The award is named in honor of Marc Hardy who was killed in a car accident in 1990 shortly before his graduation from Westfield High School. He was a National Merit Scholar, a gifted singer and actor, and very passionate about human rights.

This award is presented to recipients demonstrating: openness and friendliness to people of all races, creeds and nationalities; involvement and leadership in organizations and activities committed to improving human relations; unusual personal dignity; the willingness to risk for what he or she believes is right; unqualified acceptance of others; respect for diversity, personal integrity, caring and willingness to listen; and the ability to lead by example. Stevanie lives every day exemplifying these qualities. She has an amazing ability to bring people together and to make them see the things that they share instead of those that divide them.

Miss Rhim is an active leader in the Race Matter Alliance at David Brearley Middle-High

School and the creator of the videotaped series "Conversation Matters" bringing students together for panel discussions on difficult issues.



(above) Stevanie Rhim, a senior at David Brearley Middle-High School, was awarded the 2020 Marc Hardy Human Rights Award.

Photo by Kenilworth Public Schools

## ST. THERESA'S FOOD PANTRY IS OPEN

St. Theresa's Food Pantry is open on Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. If you are in need of food no appointment is necessary. During the Covid-19 emergency distribution is being handed behind the Rectory on 22nd street. Go to the third garage.

Donations are also being accepted at this time. Non-perishable goods and gift cards to any

supermarket.

Items mostly needed are: Peanut butter & jelly, condiments, paper towels, soap, gravy, instant potatoes, canned soups, and canned spaghetti.

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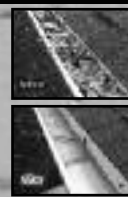
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## LEARN ABOUT DOG MUSHING AT THE KENILWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Learn About Dog Mushing At The Kenilworth Public Library will be presented virtually on Tuesday, June 30 at 1:00 p.m. for children ages 4 – 12 years old and their families. The link to register for this 40 minute program will be available on the library's facebook page, facebook.com/Kenilworth.public.library beginning at 9:00 a.m. on June 30. Registration is on a first come first served basis. It is recommended that participants sign on to the program link 10 minutes prior to the start of the program to enter the virtual waiting room.

Karen Land, a writer, public speaker, and wilderness advocate, will share her experiences with Iditarod dog mushing. Land will introduce her two dogs Noggin and Chloe, display her Iditarod dog sled and mushing gear.

Participants are welcome to ask questions through the chat box at the conclusion of this program.

During the talk, a wide range of subjects will

be discussed including raising and training of sled dogs, the breeds of dogs used in long distance mushing, and the preparations needed to run a 1000-mile dog sled race. Land will also talk extensively about the Iditarod Race itself and tell

some of her own stories from the trail.

The Kenilworth Public Library is closed at this time. For more information about this program, please email Coordinator of Children's Services, Robin Koerner at rkoerner@lmxac.org.



*(above) Join Karen Land in a program to learn about dog mushing, being offered virtually by the library on June 30.*



*(above) Karen Land will talk about Iditarod dog mushing and introduce her two dogs, Noggin and Chloe, and display her Iditarod dog sled and mushing gear.*

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## KENILWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY IS CLOSED

*Submitted by Lorraine Ruiz*

At this time the Kenilworth Public Library is closed due to the statewide public health emergency. We are uncertain when the library will reopen. Please keep any library materials that you have already checked out and be assured that the due dates for all materials have been extended and no overdue fines will be charged.

The library has many digital resources available to you at this time including books, audio books, magazines, videos, and comic

books. We also have resources to support students. You can find them all at [kenilworthlibrary.org/?page\\_id=186](http://kenilworthlibrary.org/?page_id=186).

Please explore all that the library has to offer through our website, [kenilworthlibrary.org](http://kenilworthlibrary.org).

Emails will be monitored remotely during this time and responses may be delayed. Thank you for your patience during this difficult time.

Please take care. We look forward to being able to welcome you back at the library when it is safe to do so.

## LIBRARY SUMMER READING CLUB

Our 2020 summer reading club, Imagine Your Story for children and teens will offer virtual events which will be highlighted on the library's Facebook page: [Kenilworth.public.library](https://www.facebook.com/KenilworthPublicLibrary). It is not required to be a Facebook user in order to view this information. The library's page is open to the public and will provide links to view live programs as they become available. Participants

will be admitted on a first come first served basis after clicking on program links.

For more information about the upcoming summer schedule, please email Coordinator of Children's Services, Robin Koerner at [rkoerner@lmxac.org](mailto:rkoerner@lmxac.org).

The Kenilworth Public Library wishes all of our patrons a healthy and safe summer!

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# JOE ONEILL HELPS VETERANS THROUGH CAR DONATION PROGRAM

*Submitted by Michael D. Boll, New Jersey Veterans Network*

About three years ago I received a call from our team's sponsor Geico Insurance, regarding a new car donation for New Jersey disabled veterans. Geico connected me to Benner's Auto Body in Cranford. The next day I met with the owner, Joseph Oneill, who grew up in Kenilworth, and we spoke about a possible car donation. Joe explained how he wanted to donate newer cars to disabled veterans. Joe was so passionate about this, he felt it was just one way to give back.

We spoke for a few hours and Joe was

extremely committed to working with disabled veterans and their families. We immediately found two disabled veterans in need and Joe and his team began working on two newer cars for both of these men. While the two veterans were waiting for their cars to be completed, Joe had Enterprise Rent a Car provide them with temporary transportation.

It didn't stop there, Joe hosted a huge party to honor the veterans at the River and Rail Cantina. After the event Joe told me that he wanted to get more involved and believed that we could work together and get countless veterans newer cars. Since then Joe and his team have been able to provide over a dozen cars for disabled veterans throughout the state.

When I spoke to Joe I learned that he played hockey at a high level and wanted to try out for a professional team. However, his dream was cut short because he was diagnosed with Hodgkin Lymphoma; this ended any chance of playing professional ice hockey. After undergoing treatment at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, he has been cancer free. After getting a second chance Joe decided to live life to the fullest and always put others first.

Joe never got to play hockey but he did become a sponsor for the New Jersey Devils and has been friends with their staff and players for years. Recently, Joe was able to have the team work with us on various charity events. When Joe found out that one of our Devils fan team members was being honored at a game, he

surprised us and got a luxury suite and was able to have our veteran and his family honored at the game. During the game, Joe was able to have the veteran meet a few retired players and got him the team's autographs.

My friend, Joe Oneill is currently serving on our board. He is constantly helping our car donation program grow throughout the state. This caring and kind man is loved by so many. I am so lucky to be able to work alongside this great man.

If you are interested in joining our team please feel free to contact me at (973)-332-1556 or email [mdbollio@optonline.net](mailto:mdbollio@optonline.net). To learn more visit [njvn.org](http://njvn.org).

## ABOUT NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK

We are a group of veterans and volunteers dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live better lives. Our team is raising awareness of our veterans needs by organizing public speaking engagements, meeting with business and political leaders across the state and sponsoring fundraising events. Our mission is to identify veterans and connect them with resources and programs designed to meet their unique set of needs. To ensure that EVERY single one of our veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this great country, receives the resources that they require and deserve. If you are interested in joining our team, would like us to speak at your event, or contributing to our mission, call 973-332-1556 or email [mdbollio@optonline.net](mailto:mdbollio@optonline.net). To learn more visit [njvn.org](http://njvn.org).



*(above, l-r) Michael D. Boll, New Jersey Veterans Network president, and Kenilworth native Joe O'Neill.*



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# An Important Message to our Community

*Your Safety is our Top Concern!*



Gary S. Horan



Victor M. Richel

**T**hank you for your overwhelming support during this pandemic. Businesses, restaurants, community organizations, religious groups and many, many individuals have reached out to show our staff that they're valued. We are very appreciative.

## Stay Safe

Although the number of cases in New Jersey is declining, it is very important that we don't let down our guard. Continue to be safe by wearing face masks, washing your hands and practicing social distancing.

Above all, do not ignore your health. Don't become so focused on the COVID-19 pandemic that you neglect symptoms of serious disease like stroke, heart attack, and of course any serious injury. Chest pain, bleeding, shortness of breath, loss of muscular control, severe pain or dizziness, drug overdose, severe depression or anxiety, suicidal thoughts...these are just some of the serious symptoms that should be treated in a hospital.

You can feel confident coming to the Emergency Room for any health emergency.

## Keeping You Safe

Here are the steps we are taking to keep you safe during the pandemic:

- Everyone who enters the Medical Center is screened for fever and given a face mask
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## What's Ahead

We are planning to reopen services including elective surgery, diagnostic procedures and outpatient testing – but only when it is safe to do so. Our experienced staff is conquering COVID and is ready and willing to care for all your health needs again.

As we start to return to normal in the coming weeks we ask that you stay safe, keep social distancing, wash your hands, wear a mask, and don't hesitate to seek medical attention if there is a need.

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# DAVID BREARLEY CLASS OF 2020 GRADUATES

Photos by Legacy Studios.

Continued from page 1



*Cantalupo-Lauren*



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*Congratulations David Brearley  
Class of 2020 Graduates!*



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## WHAT, WHERE, AND WHEN IN OLD KENILWORTH: VENTERS FLORISTS – SEVERAL TRAGEDIES

The Venters family came to Kenilworth from Roselle in the early 1920s. Walter D. (1886-1959) and Bertha M. (1889-1960), their daughter, Grace (1925-2006), and son Walter Raymond “Ray” (1920-1992) settled on Richfield Ave. off Michigan Ave. The couple operated a flower shop with a substantial greenhouse which was connected to their home. They cultivated the land around it from Michigan Ave. to Market St.

Walter and Bertha quickly became active in local Republican politics. Walter ran for the council twice, ultimately elected in 1929. Bertha became a county committeewoman and was elected to the school board, serving from 1935-1938. She was only the third woman to serve. She was active in the PTA, the Methodist Church, and VFW Post 2230 Ladies Auxiliary. Walter worked full-time as a diamond setter but spent long hours



(above) Venters Florist, 164 So. Michigan Ave., 1950s. Photo source: Historic Signs, Inc.



(above) Walter “Ray” Venters, last family member to own business.

Photo source: Regionologue yearbook, 1939



(above) Former site of Venters Florist, 164 So. Michigan Ave., as it appears today (2020).

Photo source: Robert Conner

at the flower shop.

Tragedy first struck in March 1928. An aggressive fire broke out in the house. Damage was estimated at \$6,000 – a huge sum in 1928. Fire chief Paul Arthur attributed the fire to faulty wiring. The family moved to Passaic Ave. until they built a new home next to the old site at 164 So. Michigan Ave. The Venters relocated the greenhouse and flower shop adjacent to it.

During WWII, son Ray served in the US Navy as a petty officer and armed guard gunman. After the war Ray worked with his parents. In 1949 his sister Grace married Dominick Viligor and moved to Clark. They had one son.

Tragedy fell again in March 1959. Mr. Venters went missing after he left the shop on March 10 to make a floral delivery to Beth Israel Hospital in Newark. On March 14, he and the truck were found in Newark where it was determined he had sustained a fatal heart attack. Bertha passed away fourteen months later. Ray, 39 years old, suddenly had the weight of the entire business on

his shoulders.

Tragedy occurred yet again. On the night of February 26, 1968, a blaze, discovered by a police officer near 11 p.m., was underway in the greenhouse. Forty members of the volunteer fire department, under command of Chief Angelo Raimondi, battled the fire for four hours. The two-story residence was gutted by the flames. The house and greenhouse were in shambles.

Ray was able to resurrect the business which continued in operation until the 1980s. He passed away in 1992. The property was sold and subdivided. In 2004 and 2005, three new homes at 703-711 Richfield Ave. were erected on the former site of the Venters’s home, greenhouse, and flower shop.

Research provided by Walter E. Boright, Ed. D., historian; Historic Signs, Inc. Appreciation is extended to Robert Conner for photography and information. Persons with inquiries about this or other aspects of Kenilworth history may contact Dr. Boright at drbori@aol.com or 908-256-5200.



(above) Kenilworth Volunteer Fire Department under Chief Paul Arthur extinguished the 1928 Venters fire. Photo source: Kenilworth Historical Society



(above) Fire Chief Angele Raimondi, center led the 1968 Venters fire battle, aided by assistant chiefs Angelo Cardella (left), and William Furze (right). Photo source: Historic signs, Inc.

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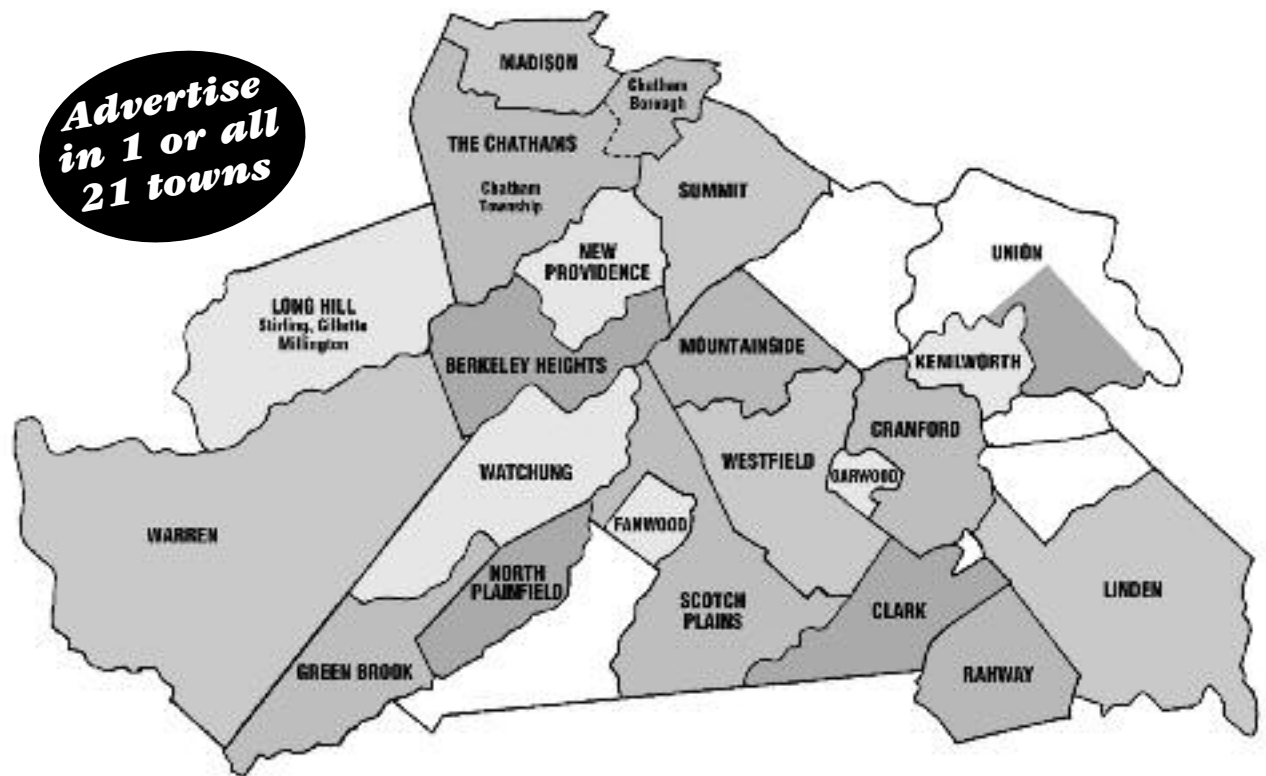
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