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ROBERT JEANS AND ARTHUR VITALE HONORED FOR SERVICE

On May 26, 2021, Robert Jeans and Arthur Vitale, both of Kenilworth, were honored at an event held at Ashbrook Golf Club commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. They were honored for their tireless service in the United States Armed Forces and for being nominated for the

2021 Vietnam War Veteran Award in Union County. They were joined by Vietnam Veterans from all Union County towns. Bob and Artie received a Proclamation from the President of the United States along with a Certificate of Recognition from Union County.



(above) Union County Vietnam War Veterans gathered at Ash Brook Golf Course to be honored on May 26, 2021.

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COMMUNITYWIDE GARAGE SALE - OCT 9 AND 10

Submitted by Shirley Boyden Maxwell

A Communitywide Garage Sale will be held in Kenilworth on Saturday, October 9 and Sunday, October 10. This major annual event, sponsored by the Kenilworth Historical Society, will take place, rain or shine, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. each day. There are usually nearly 200 participating residences.

Residents who register and pay a \$12 fee to hold garage sales at their homes anytime during the October 9/October 10 weekend will receive a certificate representing the Borough's permission to proceed and will benefit from the Kenilworth Historical Society's statewide advertising of the communitywide event via major newspapers, websites, Facebook postings and prominently placed signage and fliers. The registration deadline is Friday, October 1.

The addresses of registered participating residences will be included in a Kenilworth Communitywide Garage Sale listing and map that will be available in quantity, free of charge, at various local sites after October 7. The listing also will be posted on the Borough of Kenilworth website (kenilworthborough.com).

Communitywide Garage Sale registration forms with instructions may be obtained at the Kenilworth Borough Clerk's Office/Borough Hall, Public Library, Especially Yours Florist

and on the Borough of Kenilworth website (kenilworthborough.com). The \$12 Garage Sale registration fee may be paid by check (payable to the Kenilworth Historical Society) or in cash (exact amount required). As outlined in the instructions, payment may be made by mail (to the Kenilworth Historical Society) or in person at the Borough Clerk's Office or at Especially Yours Florist. For further information, please call 908-709-0434.

The Kenilworth Historical Society is sponsoring the Communitywide Garage Sale as a service to the community. Any proceeds after advertising and other related costs are paid will benefit the Oswald J. Nitschke House "living history" museum and cultural arts center by helping defray operating expenses, including the cost of an elevator that makes the site fully accessible to everyone.

The Kenilworth Historical Society is an independent, volunteer-based, non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the research, preservation and interpretation of the historic Oswald J. Nitschke House (c. 1880), local history and culture.

Information the Nitschke House and other events may be found on the organization's website (kenilworthhistoricalsociety.org) and Facebook page.

ST. THERESA'S KENILWORTH FOOD PANTRY

Submitted by Victoria Devlin

The St. Theresa's Food Pantry is running low on a few items and requires your help as the need for assistance increases over the summer for families.

Items needed are canned fruit, applesauce, condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayo), salad dressing, vegetable oil, coffee, tea, children's snacks, macaroni and cheese, Rice-a-Roni, bagged pasta sides, Ramen noodles, canned vegetables (mixed vegetables, carrots, peas, corn, string beans), instant mashed potatoes, pasta, canned chili, and toilet paper.

Gift cards to any supermarket and checks made payable to St. Theresa's can be mailed to: Social

Concerns c/o The Church of Saint Theresa, 541 Washington Avenue, Kenilworth, NJ 07033.

St. Theresa's Food Pantry is open every Tuesday from 10-11 a.m., every Wednesday from 6-7 p.m., alternate Thursdays 10 a.m. - Noon. If you are in need of food no appointment is necessary. It is open to everyone, not just St. Theresa parishioners. No one is turned down, everyone is welcome. During the Covid-19 emergency distribution is being handed behind the Rectory on 22nd street. Go to the third garage.

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A SAMPLING OF 2020-2021

KENILWORTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear School Community and Neighbors,

The 2020-21 school year was different for the Kenilworth district – and not just in the ways we expected it to be. As I finish my second year as superintendent, I am proud of all the work we have done together.

We made important strides in early reading instruction. Harding students achieved the highest reading levels in years after lessons using a structured literacy program.

The district connected with parents like never before. We held a record number of outreach programs on everything from technology support to helping children make the transition to middle school.

At Brearley, a group of science-minded students started a Robotics Club (page 14). Others launched a nonprofit clothing line and used the proceeds to benefit local causes (page 18).

Please join us in reflecting on this remarkable year, and looking forward to the next one!

Sincerely,
Kyle C. Arlington
Superintendent of Schools



INNOVATION



FUTURE-READY PRACTICES PREPARE STUDENTS

Technology begins with access. The district rolled out a 1:1



Chromebook program for grades K-12. Plus, Brearley's expanded computer science program advanced the goal of **shaping future-ready students**.

Want to make books as tantalizing as candy bars? Just load them into a vending machine. Harding Elementary School's free **book vending machine** dispensed plenty of good reads, and also served as a welcome diversion for students this year.



A district-wide technology & innovation team is leading efforts to expand **digital tools for teaching and learning**. Kenilworth also is working toward Digital Schools certification to **prepare students** for the demands of college and careers.



Kenilworth teachers have become skilled in using educational management systems like Seesaw and Google Classroom. They've also **upped their technology game** with online escape rooms and learning tools like Kahoot and Blooket.



CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION



FOCUS ON STRONG SKILLS STARTS EARLY

- A district-wide equity team was formed to focus on an inclusive school culture.
- After adoption of the Orton-Gillingham approach to word study, K-2 students showed major progress in early reading skills.
- Students in grades K-6 started using Readers and Writers Workshop.
- Teachers wrote or revised dozens of new guides to incorporate proven learning methods.
- Standards-based report cards that provide more specific feedback were implemented in grades K-3 and are planned for grades 4-5 next year.
- Harding switched to a trimester format to give elementary students more time to master new skills.
- A systematic analysis of intervention programs led to plans for middle school tutoring and a shift to skills-based intervention groups at Harding.

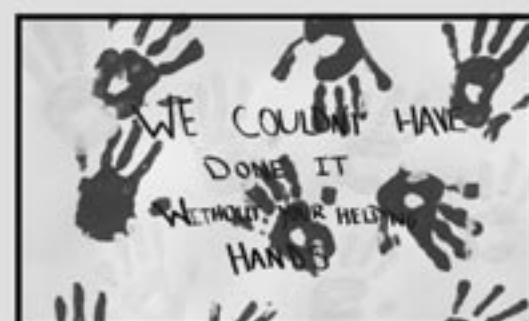


STUDENT PERSONNEL SERVICES



SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS' WELL-BEING

- Expanded existing programs in social and emotional learning (SEL), which has a proven link to improving academic achievement.
- Provided professional learning to faculty and staff in psychological first aid and pandemic response.
- Partnered with CarePlus for additional layer of mental health support. Therapists at each building worked with staff, students and families.
- Used informal SEL check-ins to provide individual and group counseling sessions to students in need.



HEALTH & WELLNESS



KEEPING SCHOOLS SAFE FOR STUDENTS & STAFF



COVID protocols were **communicated clearly and frequently**. We updated procedures throughout the year to align with changing data and guidance.

Our schools staggered student arrival and dismissal times to **maximize social distancing** while still providing opportunities for in-person learning.



Ion-based purifying **devices that neutralize viruses** were added to each classroom. The custodial crew followed rigorous daily cleaning routines.



Teachers promoted **healthy classrooms** by reviewing proper mask wearing and dedicating time to hand sanitizing.

COMMUNITY & COMMUNICATION



CONNECTING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

- More social media posting meant more opportunities to share updates and celebrate student successes.
- Facebook campaigns invited public engagement through "Kenilworth Shouts Out" salutes and "Small Community, Big Reads" videos.



- Principals regularly emailed school-news roundups to keep parents informed.
- Updates from departments including Curriculum & Instruction and Student Personnel Services offered insight on district operations.
- Monthly bulletins provided recaps of actions taken by the Board of Education.



SHOUT OUT TO MRS. FARBER
Mrs. Farber has been a remarkable and hard working teacher this year. She always goes above and beyond for her students in any way. She always makes sure everyone understands her math lesson before moving on to another. Overall, she is an amazing teacher and gives all of her students a rewarding experience. Thank you so much for all you do Mrs. Farber! -Anastasia T.



SPORTS & ACTIVITIES



COMING TOGETHER FOR
FUN & LEARNING

- Brearley teams were a force once again! Highlights included girls' track & field finishing 4th overall in the North 2 Group 1 State Section, and playoff runs for the baseball and softball teams.
- Harding's Student Government met virtually to continue raising funds for student-selected charitable causes.
- Everyone got in on the fun with Harding Family Nights, featuring the topics of Math, Science, Tools & Technology.
- Brearley started a Robotics Club, and members built and raced cars at a Family Robotics Night.
- Middle school students produced "Influencer Nation: A Stay-at-Home Play" for virtual viewing; high school theater club performed "Pop Star" on the football field.



STAFF & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



TEACHERS' GROWTH IS
STUDENTS' GAIN

This year brought **new leadership**. Brearley Principal Jeremy Davies quickly connected with staff and students to build a cohesive school community. At Harding, Ron Bubnowski was



named principal after his stellar stewardship in the interim principal role.

Brearley Principal Jeremy Davies, Director of Student Personnel Services Dawn Cuccolo and Harding Principal Ron Bubnowski speak at a Board of Education meeting.

Cohorts of staff members received professional development in the timely area of **equity in education**. The district also continued its work with the NJ Coalition for Inclusive Education to support students with disabilities.



As virtual instruction needs accelerated, the district provided more than 60 professional development sessions on **teaching and learning through technology**. Teachers also had more than 100 individual coaching sessions, including in English Language Arts.



Additional professional learning opportunities will be offered to teachers over the summer. **Preparation will be key** as students and teachers adjust to yet another set of changes this fall.

HARDING & BREARLEY UPDATES



HAWKS AND BEARS MAKING US PROUD!

- Students taking Brearley's Practical Arts course launched their own clothing business. The Be Nice Co. is true to its name - proceeds from sales go to local charities.
- Brearley students are looking forward to a new Maker Space/Tech Lab, where students can attend afterschool activities and take courses such as a Creative Design elective.
- Harding's Maker Space will reopen in September. The 2020-21 school year featured hands-on science lessons and engineering design challenges.
- Harding students showed support for peers, from the "Start with Hello" program to address isolation, to Bubbles Day for autism awareness.
- Students attended workshops to ease the transition from elementary to middle school, and Brearley students prepared for college with courses like SAT Boot Camp and College Writing.



2021 COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE LIST



CONGRATS TO ALL!

Our high school seniors persevered through many challenges this year to achieve their goals of pursuing college, a trade or job, or a military career. Here are the colleges, universities, and armed forces to which our students were accepted.

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
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|---|--|---|---|



(above) Technology has become an indispensable aspect of education during COVID. At Kenilworth schools, a technology/innovation team is focused on using online tools to maximize future-ready learning.

Photo by Kenilworth Public Schools

KENILWORTH SCHOOLS REFOCUS TECHNOLOGY EFFORTS TO ADVANCE LEARNING

Submitted by Sheri Berkery

The need for more school technology developed overnight. The opportunities to use it more strategically continue coming to Kenilworth Public Schools, including a new technology lab that will debut at the Middle-High School in September.

Of course, teachers have been at the forefront of adapting technology for instruction. In Kenilworth, they have used video-game-type elements in their online lessons. They've leveraged educational management systems like Google Classroom and Seesaw to differentiate learning experiences. Teachers even took their own tech knowledge up a notch by participating in more than 60 professional learning sessions and more than 100 individual coaching sessions on the subject.

Now the district is updating its vision for technology based on the lessons of the past year, and it's asking a team of teachers to help.

"We're incredibly proud of how our teachers have embraced the potential of technology to expand students' skills. The Kenilworth District aims to prepare students for the rigors of college and tomorrow's careers. Technology is at the core of those goals," said Superintendent of Schools Kyle Arlington.

The district will provide students with another major technology resource this September when

David Brearley Middle-High School unveils its makerspace/technology lab. Harding Elementary School's existing makerspace/technology lab will reopen this fall for the first time since schools closed in March 2020. Both spaces will include additional tools for innovation.

Here are other technology developments happening both behind the scenes and in the classrooms:

The district distributed more than 1,000 Chromebooks to students before schools reopened last fall, and will phase in upgrades by replacing last-generation Chromebooks with touch-screen models.

Teachers are using technology-based escape rooms and game-based learning tools like Kahoot and Bloocket to engage students.

The district upgraded its firewall to provide top-of-the-line cybersecurity, doubled its bandwidth, and installed faster network switches to improve internal connections.

A district-wide technology/innovation team has been formed to drive the vision for the schools. Subgroups of the innovation team are reviewing educational technology tools to ensure teachers and students have needed resources.

Learning and fun team up in Brearley's Robotics Club, which recently held its first Family Robotics Night.



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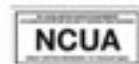
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BREARLEY RECOGNIZES EXCEPTIONAL VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN FOR THE CLASS OF 2021

Kenilworth Public Schools has announced the valedictorian and salutatorian for David Brearley High School's Class of 2021.

The valedictorian is Isabella Uschak and the salutatorian is Nicholas Borg. The two distinguished students were among 109 to graduate from Brearley on June 23, 2021.

Uschak consistently made high honors, receiving several scholastic awards and Student of the Semester recognition. She is also a member of the National Honor Society.

"Isabella is an intelligent, patient, respectful, disciplined, hardworking, proactive, inquisitive and determined individual," said Brearley High School counselor Stephanie Scasso. "Her accomplishments stem from the ambitious goals she sets for herself; she's a shining example of what David Brearley High School is all about."

Uschak's proudest academic accomplishments include earning the highest grades in all of her Advanced Placement (AP) classes both in her sophomore and junior years. She's also a leader in extracurricular activities, including cheer. Her cheer team placed in the top three at the 2020 National "Reach the Beach" competition for the first time in years.

Community involvement has further developed her leadership qualities and self-discipline. She has volunteered her time at the local homeless shelter, a quadriplegic care center



(above, Left) Isabella Uschak, David Brearley High School's Class of 2021 Valedictorian



(above, right) Nicholas Borg, David Brearley High School's Class of 2021 Salutatorian

and nursing home throughout high school. Over the years Isabella has written presentations about her Catholic faith to address large groups of her peers and adults. This year, she was the recipient of the Catholic Youth Excellence Award.

"Isabella is not a follower," said Scasso. "She listens to others and follows her values when making decisions, and demonstrates excellent leadership abilities."

Borg has found similar success at Brearley after taking on the most rigorous course load offered by the district.

"Nicholas is a hard-working, committed and highly disciplined student," said Brearley High School counselor Jamie Lugo. "His desire to think outside the box while always giving his best is admirable."

A member of the varsity baseball team and the former Vice President of the National Honor Society, Borg worked hard to surpass a 4.0 GPA. He completed 11 AP classes and three Union County College courses through the Kenilworth Scholars Academy.

Borg's impressive academic achievements are complemented by his vast community involvement, which includes training and coaching young baseball players, and fundraising for the Backpack Pals program and a local food pantry. At Brearley, Borg volunteered with the annual blood drive and helped raise funds for the Class of 2021.

Borg's interests also include the stock market; he is a self-taught investor.

"Nicholas will only continue to find success," said Lugo. "Working hard and raising the bar comes as second nature to him, and his impact on Brearley is just an indication of what he'll do in the future."

Uschak will continue her education at Boston College, Carroll School of Management, and Borg will pursue a Mechanical Engineering degree from Stevens Institute of Technology.



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WHAT, WHERE, AND WHEN IN OLD KENILWORTH: NORTH 23RD ST. – ALMOST HAD FOUR NAMES

North 23rd St. is a residential street like none other in Kenilworth. When the future town of Kenilworth was laid out in the 1890s and known as New Orange, there were many streets numbered in sequence, with exceptions. There were N. 21st, N. 22nd, and N. 24th streets – but N. 23rd St. was not on the map! Why was it missing?

Travel up N. 23rd St. today from the Boulevard toward Washington Ave. and you will realize that it is a wide street – the widest residential street in town! Hmm. Why is this so?

The 1890s plan to develop Kenilworth had residential streets with 50-foot-wide rights-of-ways of which 30 feet was reserved for traffic and 10 feet on each side for sidewalks and tree plantings. But N. 23rd St. has an 80-foot right-of-way. Why is it so much wider?

The founders of New Orange labelled what is today N. 23rd St. as Commerce St. It was not a numbered street. Each side was to be lined with businesses. Hence, it was named “Commerce” Street. It was extra wide to accommodate a trolley running down its center from the Boulevard to Washington Ave. and then turn left and travel along Washington Ave. to the west end of town. It also was extra wide to accommodate swarms of shoppers, riders on horseback, and to handle horse-drawn wagons and carriages to frequent the merchants.

The 23rd St. trolley and businesses never materialized. Along came John Hiller, Jr. (1860-1956); mayor during 1914 and 1915. A craftsman by trade, he built many homes, mainly from N. 21st to N. 23rd streets between the Boulevard and Washington Ave. When he started construction on N. 23rd St. in the fall of 1924 it still was known as Commerce St. By 1925, it was renamed Home Ave. as it was evolving into a street of homes, not of commerce.

The name Home Ave. was short lived. In July 1927, the mayor and council gave it a third name – N. 23rd St. In 1940 Hiller wanted a fourth name for N. 23rd St. Alas, the mayor and council took no action so it has remained N. 23rd St. At that time, like many local streets, it was not paved.

The homes were set on 40-foot-wide lots – a big change from many earlier homes built here on narrower lots. Hiller’s houses were priced at \$7,000-\$7,500 in the 1920s. The colonial homes were in two styles. Although some have undergone major renovations, a discerning eye will pick out the two styles. In 2020 one of those homes sold for \$409,000.

Over the years, prominent individuals have lived on this one block of N. 23rd St. Some include: Philip J. McGevna, borough clerk; Joseph Morick, borough council president; Adolph Paterson, businessman; Kathi Fiamingo, future mayor; Isadore “Dory” Himpele, tax collector and local and regional school board member; and the old-time Furze and Scheidegger families.

In the 1960s, the Hiller-built houses at 40 and 42 N. 23rd St. were taken to make way for construction of a new St. Theresa’s Church. House #40 was moved to 507 Washington Ave. and served as a funeral director’s home. House #42 was demolished. No matter its name, Commerce St., Home Ave., or N. 23rd St., this street surely has a unique history.

Research provided by Walter E. Boright, Ed. D., historian, and Historic Signs, Inc. Persons with inquiries about this or other aspects of Kenilworth history may contact Dr. Boright at drbori@aol.com or 908-256-5200.



(above) John Hiller Jr.



(above, l-r) 1st Type Hiller House, 2nd Type Hiller House, 2 Houses for St. Theresa’s



(above) N 23rd Street Sign, Wide Street View, N 23rd St. Unpaved

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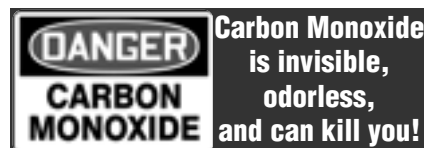
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JULY PROGRAMS WITH THE KENILWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

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2021 SUMMER READING CLUB

Tails and Tales

Monday, June 28 - Friday, August 13

Children ages 2 - 12 years old may continue to register for the summer reading club which concludes on Friday, August 13. To register call the library and make a curbside appointment to pick up a reading club bag filled with a calendar of events and other items of interest to curious young minds.

The Reading club is open to children and teens ages 2 - 18 years old.

Mommy, Daddy & Me: (Ages: 2 - 5 years)

Listen to 30 books checked out from the library and receive a free book.

I Can Read: (Ages: 6 - 8 years)

Read 15 Easy Reader Fiction or Nonfiction books checked out from the library and receive a free book.

Club Reads-alot: (Ages 9 - 12 years)

Read 7 Junior Fiction or Nonfiction books checked out from the library and receive a free book.

Teens: (Ages 13 - 18 years)

Read 3 Young Adult Fiction or Nonfiction books checked out from the library and receive a free book.

**Teens can continue to register for the reading club which concludes on August 13 and request a Reading Book Log. To register call to schedule a curbside pick up for the reading log.

JULY SPECIAL EVENTS

All participants must register for the Summer Reading Club in order to participate in special events.

All programs and special events will be held outside in the library's parking lot. All participants will be required to wear masks in the parking lot. There will be no restrooms available during events. There is no rain date for events unless otherwise noted. Please bring a blanket or low beach chair to sit on during events.

Registration is required for all special events. Kenilworth residents may begin to register one week prior to each event. To register, call the library.

Bilingual Story Time

Thursday, July 8 at 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

At The Kenilworth Public Library Parking Lot.

Ages: 3 & up. This program will be presented by children's author Laura Sassi.

Rizzo's Wildlife Visits

July 12 at 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

At the Library Parking Lot for ages 4 - 12 years. Learn about and view up close various wildlife animals. This program has been funded by a Clean Communities Grant given to The Borough of Kenilworth.

Boogie Woogie Babies

Tuesday, July 13 at 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Visit The Library's Parking Lot, for ages 0 - 4 years. Babies, toddlers and young children will enjoy an interactive musical program presented by Tiffany Taylor.

Cloverland Petting Zoo

Monday, July 19 at 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Rain date: July 26 at 11:00 a.m.

Visits The Library's Parking Lot, for ages 4 - 12 years. Children will have an opportunity to visit with various farm animals.

This program has been funded by The Friends of The Kenilworth Public Library.

July weekly programs will be held in the parking lot.

There will be no restrooms available during this time. There is no rain date for these programs. Please bring a blanket to sit on during Lap Sit, Toddler Time and Story Time.

Lap Sit for ages 0 - 2 years

Tuesday, July 6, 20 & 27

10:30 - 10:50 a.m.

Toddler Time for ages 2 - 3 years

Wednesday, July 7, 21 & 28

10:30 - 10:50 a.m.

Story Time for ages 3 and up

Thursday, July 1, 15, 22 & 29

10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Crafts for ages 4 - 8 years

Friday, July 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

Join Us For "Yarnies" at The Library

Every Thursday from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Outside of the library, weather permitting. Adult and teen participants are welcome to attend. All participants must wear a mask and social distance. There will be no restrooms available during this time. There is no rain date for these meetings, we will try again the following week.

Join Us For Paper Pals at The Library.

Tuesdays, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Adult and teen crafters are welcome to attend a card making club, meeting outside in the library parking lot, weather permitting. All participants must wear a mask and social distance. There will be no restrooms available during this time. No rain dates. Space is limited for this program, so please call to reserve your spot. No crafting experience is necessary. Just be prepared to have fun!

BUS TRIP TO ATLANTIC CITY'S TROPICANA CASINO AND RESORT

The Kenilworth Historical Society will host a bus trip to the Tropicana Casino and Resort in Atlantic City on Saturday, July 31.

The trip will depart Kenilworth (St. Theresa's School parking lot) at 8 a.m. and return to Kenilworth at approximately 6:30 p.m. Cost of \$48 includes comfortable motor coach transportation, an approximate 6-hour visit to the casino and \$10 in free slot play. The Tropicana premier casino and resort is a 24-hour gaming destination located on the acclaimed Atlantic City beach and boardwalk. With more than 3,000 slot machines and more than 132 table games, plus 30 popular restaurants and eateries, 30 shops, 20 bars and lounges, four pools, an IMAX Theatre and multiple spas, Tropicana is consistently rated as a "Must-See Attraction" in Atlantic City. There will be a 50/50 raffle and complimentary door prizes on the bus.

For further information and reservations, please call 908-709-0434. As space is limited,

particularly for safe "social distancing" on the bus, reservations should be made by July 17 to ensure availability. Gift certificates for the trip are also available for purchase.

Proceeds from the bus trip will benefit the Kenilworth Historical Society's historic Oswald J. Nitschke House (c. 1880) by helping defray operating expenses, including the cost of an elevator that makes the restored "living history" museum and cultural arts center fully accessible to everyone.

The Kenilworth Historical Society is an independent, volunteer-based, non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the research, preservation and interpretation of the Oswald J. Nitschke House, local history and culture.

Further information about the organization, the Nitschke House and other upcoming events may be found on the organization's website (kenilworthhistoricalsociety.org) and Facebook page.



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TEMPLE EMANU-EL CORPS OF VOLS DO “PASSOVER PICK-UP” OF PARKS

Submitted by Kathi Edelson Wolder

Temple Emanu-El of Westfield has long been more than a place of worship; at its core is a socially conscious, multi-generational network of members devoted to giving back to the surrounding communities. With an army of passionate volunteers, the synagogue embarks on a multitude of social action and community projects throughout the year, and on Tuesday, March 30, in celebration of Passover and the onset of Spring, 25 volunteers wearing rain boots and work gloves descended on Nomahegan and Lenape Parks to help clear trash from these cherished recreation spots.

Rabbi Victor Appell of Temple Emanu-El brought his 16-year old son Lev to help out. “We are here because it is part of our obligation. An integral part of our faith is what we call “Tikkun Olam,” to work in partnership with God to “repair the world.” One way we do this is by helping to take care of public spaces like this, to

make sure that they’re clean, to protect their natural beauty, so that everyone can enjoy them. We’re glad that we are able to be here to do this.”

Also on hand was the Baum family of Westfield, who came out in full force to help with the cleanup. “Rabbi Appell suggested we do this,” says Wendy Baum. “Our son Noah helped clean up Tamaques Park for his Bar Mitzvah project and he really enjoyed doing it. That was a couple of months ago, so we thought this would be a good opportunity for us all to do it together, so here we are!”

Many of the synagogue’s volunteer activities are organized through its Tikkun Olam Committee, formed in 2005 to identify ways in which temple members can “lend a helping hand,” particularly through social action projects that are intended to make life better for others in the community and beyond. In addition to environmental projects, the Committee conducts emergency food drives, houses the homeless,

crafts handmade “blankets of love” to provide comfort to children and teens with cancer, and even grows vegetables in their own “mitzvah garden” that they donate to the Westfield Food Pantry.

The project was overseen by Betty Ann Kelly, Environmental Specialist for Union County Parks & Recreation; and Daniela Shebitz, Ph.D., Executive Director/Associate Professor at the School of Environmental and Sustainability Sciences at Kean University. “One of the most important parts about being Jewish is to understand the beauty of our environment and the importance of people as the protectors of the environment,” says Shebitz. “I think that events like this, that bring our congregation together with our community, are really what helps me to express my role in life as a Jewish person.”

For more information on Temple Emanu-El, or to volunteer, contact Jackie Grussgott at jgrussgott@tewnj.org.

Photos by Kathi Edelson Wolder



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HARDING SCHOOL CELEBRATES BUBBLES DAY FOR AUTISM AWARENESS

Submitted by Kenilworth Public Schools

The Kenilworth School District has embraced opportunities to lighten things up this year, and the recent Bubbles Day at Harding Elementary School was a perfect fit.

All students from pre-K through sixth grade eagerly made bubbles during outdoor mask breaks, but also learned that the May 6 activity was not just for fun.

Harding's morning announcement included a message about Bubbles Day's origin as an autism awareness activity.

A mom from South Jersey who founded the

group FACES 4 Autism started Bubbles 4 Autism in 2004. The idea was inspired by her preschool son Kyle's love of bubbles, but there are also lessons for all children. Making bubbles can teach neurotypical children how to play with peers with autism.

Harding students learned the Bubbles 4 Autism celebrations are based on a Cherokee custom involving butterflies. They were asked "to send good intentions, wishes and hopes with each bubble made."

The local UNICO chapter donated supplies and treats for the event to students in Harding's

Language Learning Disabilities programs.

"Fun is the universal language of childhood," said Director of Student Personnel Services Dawn Cuccolo. "We were proud to celebrate Bubbles Day at Harding to model ways that all children can play together and communicate, no matter what their abilities."

In true Kenilworth fashion, participation from the wider school community contributed to the event's success. The Brearley Bear mascot from David Brearley Middle-High School joined in making bubbles. Talented 12th-grade Brearley photographers took pictures for the event.



(above) Harding Elementary School participated in Bubbles Day, an autism awareness activity.



(above) The Brearley Bear mascot from David Brearley Middle-High School joined in making bubbles.

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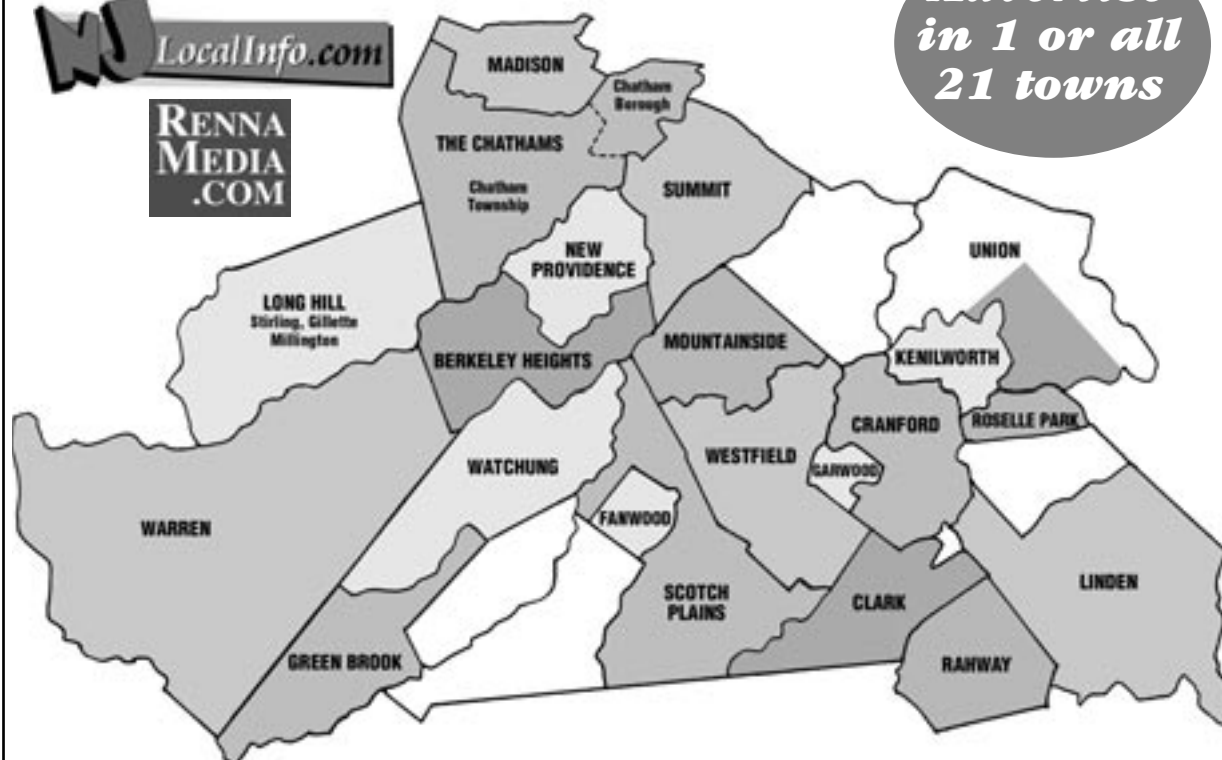
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