

# KENILWORTH BUSINESS + LIFE

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## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GETS A VISIT FROM SANTA

Victorian Santa attended the Dec. 9th, 2021 meeting of the Kenilworth Chamber of Commerce. The meeting was hosted by Shirley Maxwell, President of the Kenilworth Historical Society, and was held at the Oswald J. Nitschke House, a Living History Museum of American Immigration, located at 49 South 21st Street in Kenilworth, NJ. The Society holds several events at the house throughout the year, rotating exhibits, and at Christmastime the house is authentically decorated for a holiday season in the 1800s.

The Kenilworth Historical Society has owned and operated the Nitschke House since 2003. It is one of Kenilworth's original clapboard-clad, wood frame farmhouses. It belonged to Oswald J. Nitschke (1867-1934), a prominent political leader who came to Kenilworth (formerly known as New Orange) as a young German immigrant in 1899. He was heavily involved in the early development of the community. Nitschke served on the borough council for several years, he was elected mayor in 1919, and held that post for a record 5 terms (1920-1933). He is credited for giving the borough its first major artery and opening up the unique 120-foot-wide Kenilworth Boulevard.

The story of Oswald J. Nitschke, his wife Anna and their two sons, Oswald and Hugo, is representative of the experiences of many immigrants who came to Kenilworth and other communities in New Jersey and throughout the United States in the late 19th century.



**FIX** (above, l-r) Historical Society President Shirley Maxwell and Chamber President Kamal Assad.

*The Kenilworth Chamber of Commerce meets on the  
2nd Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m.  
at different locations throughout Kenilworth.  
For more information visit [gatewaychamber.com](http://gatewaychamber.com).*

## OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS' AT NITSCHKE HOUSE

Victorian Santa and the Christmas Matters Holiday Carolers were featured during the December 5, 2021 festivities at the Nitschke House, which drew approximately 150 visitors plus countless bystanders who stopped to listen to the carolers, whose performance was generously sponsored by the Kenilworth Education Association F.A.S.T. Committee. Participants also had an opportunity to have photos taken with Victorian Santa, see the c. 1880 home's historic rooms authentically decorated for Christmas, view the site's recently unveiled exhibition "Celebrating 100 Years and More of Votes for Women" (sponsored by the Investors Bank Foundation) and visit a multicultural Christkindlmarkt in the Nitschke House Cultural Arts Center (as shown in photos). Information about the Nitschke House "living history" museum, events and membership is available on the Kenilworth Historical Society's website [kenilworthhistoricalsociety.org](http://kenilworthhistoricalsociety.org) and Facebook page. Guided group tours of the house may be arranged by calling 908-709-0434.



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# BUSINESS + LIFE KENILWORTH

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## 'OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS' ITEMS FROM HISTORIC OSWALD J. NITSCHKE HOUSE



(above) Victorian Santa visits the Oswald J. Nitschke House at Christmastime. Local legend has it that he is Kenilworth resident Craig Day.



(above) Advent Wreath (on table) The concept originated in Germany in the 16th century, reached the U.S. in the 1930s and evolved into the version known today with four or five candles lit successively every week leading up to Christmas.

## CHILD CARE

Portuguese lady takes care of children and babies right next to the Harding School in Kenilworth. I can also take them to school and pick-up.

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(above) Hand-blow German Ornaments (early 1900's). Kugel (German name for ball or sphere) are the earliest form of Christmas decorations. Also a German pickle ornament. As per German legend, the child who finds the pickle on the tree would receive an extra gift from Saint Nicholas; an adult would have good luck for a year.



(above) Feather Tree (late 1800s) Fabricated in Germany, feather trees were considered the first 'artificial Christmas trees.' They were made from goose/turkey feathers that mimic pine needles, in response to concerns over the devastation that was widespread in Germany and other areas during the 18090s. German immigrants such as the Nitschkes, were known to bring their beloved feather trees to America. Sears, Roebuck & Co. began marketing feather trees in 1913.

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## SANTA VISITS ST. THERESA SCHOOL

Sunday December 5th marked the day that St. Theresa School kicked off the holiday spirit by hosting its first annual Pictures with Santa. The event was well attended by approximately 110 children and family members. The laughter of surprise rang down the halls when the children saw Santa, and volunteer elves and other festive helpers gave out bags of holiday candy. Along with meeting Santa, the families of STS spread joy to the local community by donating over 400

food items to the St. Theresa Church Food Pantry. Approximately 50 extra bags of holiday candy were donated to Bernice's Place, a loving shelter in Elizabeth, NJ for children in need.

The idea to combine a photo opportunity and donate food items came from Megan Malone, Secretary of the STS Home School Association, and STS parent, who brought the school together to celebrate in a safe and friendly environment.



(above, l-r) Elf, Jordyn Salvatore, Santa, Felice Salvatore, Reindeer, Isabella Galan, and Elf, Olivia Malone.

## TROOP 83 WISHES THE COMMUNITY A HAPPY HEALTHY 2022!



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- Member of the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA)
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## OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

**Thursday, January 27, 2022**

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Sunday, January 30, 2022**

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

**PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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## LIBRARY JANUARY EVENTS FOR CHILDREN

Phone: 908-276-2451

[www.kenilworthlibrary.org/](http://www.kenilworthlibrary.org/)

548 Boulevard, Kenilworth, NJ 07033

Mon - Wed: 10am-5pm; Thur: 10am-8pm;

Fri: 10am-5pm; Sat: 10am-2pm; Sun: Closed

### Lap Sit for Ages 0 - 24 Months

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.,

January 4th – February 15th

### Toddler Time for 2-year-old Children

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.,

January 5th – February 16th

### Story Time for Children Ages 3 & Up

Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.,

January 6th – February 17th

### Teen Drop-in Craft

Teens ages 13 & up are welcome to attend this event. Create a craft to take home. Registration is not required.

## SPECIAL EVENTS:

Registration is required for all special events. Kenilworth residents may begin to register one week prior to each event. Out of town residents may begin to register two days prior to each event.

To register, call the library at 908-276-2451.

### Boogie Woogie Babies

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

at 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Ages: 0 – 4. Babies, toddlers, and young children will enjoy an interactive musical program presented by Tiffany Taylor.

### Meet DustyThe Dog

Thursday, January 20, 2022

at 3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Meet DustyThe Dog and Learn About Healthy Habits. Children ages 3 and up will be educated and entertained while learning about the importance of hand washing, lead exposure, and staying healthy. This program will be presented by The Union County Childhood Lead Exposure Prevention Program and Healthy Homes Program of JFK Medical Center. At the conclusion of this event, children will be provided with a goody bag filled with education and fun materials to take home.



(above) Boogie Woogie Babies will visit The Kenilworth Public Library with an interactive musical program presented by Tiffany Taylor on January 20, 2022

## PROGRESS ON DISTRICT GOALS, OBJECTIVES

### Kenilworth Public Schools

Students aren't the only ones expected to meet standards at Kenilworth Public Schools.

The district also sets ambitious goals for itself and its schools, Harding Elementary and Brearley Middle-High School. After establishing goals in the 2020-21 school year, Kenilworth updated its objectives for this year – and is ready to share achievements related to the original benchmarks.

With COVID protocols and district/school communication now routine, Kenilworth can increase its focus on areas such as nurturing diversity, equity and inclusion. That is among the new goals for this year, along with maximizing data to improve academic achievement; and educating the community about proposed faculty and academic program improvements. Ongoing goals include supporting future-ready teaching, learning and innovation; and increasing opportunities for job-embedded professional learning.

"Setting clear goals has helped Kenilworth grow academically and provide targeted outreach to our school community over the past year," said Superintendent of Schools Kyle Arlington. "We expanded and refined our intervention services to meet the needs of every student. New programs from pre-K through high school are producing results in student achievement. Connecting district goals to related building goals has only strengthened the impact. We're looking forward to more strides as we work on our new and ongoing goals."

Arlington presented the updated district and school goals at a September Board of Education meeting.

Several weeks into the new school year, Kenilworth already is reporting progress on new goals, as well as providing updates on 2020-21 objectives.

### PROGRESS ON 2021-22 DISTRICT GOALS:

#### Diversity/equity/inclusion

- Committed to holding cultural event evenings this school year, starting with Hispanic Heritage Night on Oct. 14
- Joined Monmouth University's Central Jersey

Consortium for Excellence & Equity 2021-2022

#### Data-driven achievement

- Administrators accelerated use of data to identify instructional goals.
- Intervention team used data to create new criteria for tiered services.

### ACHIEVEMENTS RESULTING FROM 2020-21 GOALS:

#### Future-ready innovation

- Harding converted a computer lab to a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Lab, and is adding 3D printers.
- Brearley launched new computer science courses for the middle school and high school, and a creative computing class at the middle school.

A full-time computer science teacher joined Brearley's staff.

Both buildings will partner with Rutgers Center for Mathematics, Science, and Computer Education to support teachers' professional development in innovation.

#### Professional learning

Teachers continued to develop their knowledge of online education tools such as Google Classroom, Genesis, Math 180, and Study Island.

Staff members were trained in a research-based literacy program for early readers, as well as initiatives focused on math and world languages in the middle and upper grades.

#### Stronger community relationships

- Increased communication through emails, as well as videos, blogs and virtual Town Halls
- Added Parent University training sessions to extend supportive network for students

### A LOOK AHEAD:

This school year, the district will continue to work toward goals with steps that include:

- Adopting a framework and protocol to help develop a common language around data analysis
- Maintaining administrative professional learning to support creating a richer data culture
- Tying school climate and culture work to diversity, equity and inclusion efforts



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## SENIOR CITIZEN CLUB CASINO TRIP

The Kenilworth Senior Citizen Club will be running a bus ride to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City, NJ on Tuesday, January 18, 2022. The bus for the trip will leave from the Acme parking lot, located at 801 Kenilworth Blvd, Kenilworth, NJ, at 9:30 a.m. The cost is \$35 and the casino will give participants \$20 in slot play.

For reservations, please contact either Lillian Furze at 908-709-0515, or Emily Grimaldi at 908-272-6329, by Friday, January 14, 2022.

## SENIOR CENTER

Senior programs are in full swing at the Kenilworth Senior Center.

Senior meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. at the Kenilworth Senior Center, located at 526 Boulevard, Kenilworth. The first next meeting is January 5, 2022. Come back current members. New members are welcome!

You can be added to a mailing list for the calendar of programs by calling 908-272-1716 and leaving a message with your name and address.

## RELIEF FROM CHRONIC KNEE PAIN

FDA Approved Treatment to Avoid Surgery

### DON'T BLAME THE ARROW FOR MISSING THE TARGET

Just like tens of millions of other Americans, you were looking for relief from your chronic knee pain. You thought Viscosupplementation injections might be the answer, but the results were disappointing and painful. Don't assume the treatment wasn't right. That could very well be like blaming the arrow for its path to the target when the problem might be the archer. If you didn't get the pain relief you were hoping for, chances are your injection treatment was off target. Unlike blind injections or even ultrasound targeted treatments found elsewhere, **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** uses diagnostic fluoroscopy to make sure the area that needs treated is the exact area where the injection goes. This is the most advanced method of delivering this pain relieving treatment with 95% accuracy to give you the results you're looking for. The use of Fluoroscopy guided injections sets **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** apart. The end result is you living pain free from your chronic knee pain. You can avoid the lengthy and painful road of knee replacement surgery. You can avoid the endless trial and error assortment of potentially addictive prescription medications. This treatment, using fluoroscopy guided injections has seen a success rate of above 85% in those suffering from knee pain related to osteoarthritis, and that includes people with bone on bone involvement. You've suffered from chronic knee pain long enough. Call **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** now for a RISK FREE consultation.



### If Knee Surgery Sounds Scary, It Should

Have you have been told you are facing knee replacement surgery? Have you been told about all the downsides you could be facing? First and foremost, there are NO guarantees that knee replacement surgery will be the answer to your pain, but let's look further:

- Surgery is costly, regardless of the percentage of services covered by insurance.
- Surgery requires lost time from work and typically requires a regimen of rehabilitation and medications.
- With surgery, there is always a risk for unwelcomed complications. And you could be back to where you started, or worse.
- Medications will be required for relief from surgery and you have been down that road before. Addictions to these pain medications can cause potential side effects, something you do not want to experience.
- Rehabilitation can take years.

### Consider This Alternative To Surgery

**Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** offers you a real opportunity and a painless way to say goodbye to your knee pain without any surgery. Here are just a few of the important benefits you should consider?

- Diagnostic fluoroscopy accurately targets the pain, unlike blind injections.
- Guided fluoroscopic injections are virtually pain free, unlike blind injections.
- No lost time from work or family.
- No expensive or time consuming rehabilitation.
- No potentially addictive prescription medications.
- Recovery time is almost instant, not months or years.

### How Does This New Treatment Work?

Relief begins almost as fast as it takes to pronounce the treatment. It's called Viscosupplementation Therapy. To begin with, it starts with **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** investing in the use of diagnostic fluoroscopy. This enables them to target the exact location of your knee pain with pinpoint accuracy. What follows is a simple injection that causes little to no pain, especially when compared to what you may be living with daily. That explains what you will see on the surface of this revolutionary treatment. What's taking place below the surface is how and where the natural healing process takes place. The injection of a Hyaluronic acid called Hyalgan. This gel-like substance was approved by the FDA in 1996. Hyalgan is a natural substance that mimics the synovial fluid that is already produced by your body in your joints. Osteoarthritis sufferers in particular see a reduction in this much needed synovial fluid in their knee joints. Without that cushioning layer of protection, the cartilage in your knee can begin to wear away leading to the rubbing of bone on bone. Through Viscosupplementation Therapy, this natural substance immediately goes to work reducing the swelling and inflammation in the joint and adding a coating layer of protection. Think about Dorothy taking the oil can to The Tin Man. You'll begin to feel that same kind of relief and quite possibly feel like you're ready for a dance down the yellow brick road to recovery yourself. And with a success rate of over 85% in alleviating pain associated with osteoarthritis, it's easy to see why this treatment is so readily covered by Medicare and by most major insurance providers. Diagnostic fluoroscopy to target the pain, Viscosupplementation Therapy to relieve the pain. Simple, fast and no surgery!

### Do you Suffer from any of these Symptoms?

There are a number of reasons why you developed Osteoarthritis pain. It can develop with age or because of heredity. It could be from repetitive stress from a job or some glory days in athletics. Of course your concern is with the symptoms you face daily and how to make them end, hopefully without surgery or the use of potentially addictive medications. **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** understands the symptoms you have been living with and can help. If you have any of the symptoms below, please call us today. Relief is a phone call away.

- **Pain** - Whether it's a sharp aching or maybe a burning sensation, the pain can range from irritating to debilitating.
- **Swelling** - This can cause tenderness and soreness to the entire knee area, making walking or going up and down stairs painful, getting in and out of bed or bathtubs difficult and dangerous just name a few activities affected by swelling.
- **Stiffness** - Getting up out of bed or after sitting for a period of time gets more and more difficult. This loss of mobility can be more than a hindrance. It can be dangerous if you need to move quickly.
- **Loss of muscle strength** - This can lead to balance issues and the strong possibility of falling.
- **Joint deformity** - Not just unsightly, but painful as well.
- **Creaking Joints** - Can be painful and a sign of more discomfort to come.
- **Sleepless nights** - Losing sleep over your suffering is not just irritating, but potentially dangerous because of so many other health concerns that can be affected by loss of sound sleep.

### Let Me Show You Targeted Relief From Your Knee Pain

Every day, I see patients suffering from knee pain due to arthritis, osteoarthritis, sports injuries or other conditions. Many have been told that they are in need of knee replacement surgery. Other patients say they have been prescribed various prescription medications to deal with the pain.

Something else I see almost every day, are patients that have tried viscosupplementation knee injections elsewhere and found it to be a painful and ineffective experience because the injections were not administered using fluoroscopic guidance. Instead of using the incredibly accurate diagnostic fluoroscopy we use at **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** these patients experienced a blind injection technique, which can be as inaccurate as playing pin the tail on the donkey.

Once I am able to explain to my patients about the pin point accuracy of using diagnostic fluoroscopy and the amazing results viscosupplementation can provide, they are thrilled to get started. They are even more thrilled when they feel the relief. Please contact **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** today to schedule your RISK FREE consultation.

Call 732-827-0800

Scot Paris MD, FACS



### Here's what our patients have to say

"I'm dancing without pain. I can move with no problem whatsoever. I can go up and down steps with no pain."

- Patricia G.

"Over 85% relief for the first time in 15 years, suffering with knee pain. My life is getting back to normal."

- Perry O.

"After only four visits, I have absolutely no pain! The staff is 'top-notch.'"

- Quentin L.

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# THREE COUNTY FAMILIES MADE OFFICIAL ON NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

*Multi-town parade includes superheroes, gift baskets and more*

## CASA of Union County

The frosty morning of Nov. 19 may have been any other Friday for many, but for three Union County foster youth in Rahway, Roselle and Roselle Park, all under age three, their lives changed forever, as Union County Superior Court Judge Lara DiFabrizio granted each the consistency and stability deserved by all children, finalizing their adoptions and ending their time in the child welfare system. Each family had their own CASA volunteer working the case.

The annual event is held the Saturday before Thanksgiving and courts nationwide often celebrate National Adoption Day the business day before, or even open on Saturday, to hold adoption hearings. Here in Union County, all hearings were performed via Zoom due to Covid-19, and Judge DiFabrizio made official what each child likely already felt: they were finally home.

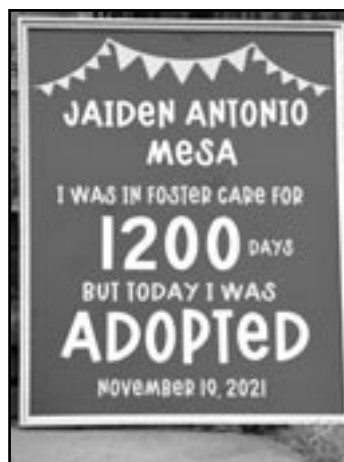
Despite the virtual component, those involved ensured the excitement was palpable. Upon completion of each adoption, the homes were visited by a caravan of fire trucks, police cars, court staff, law guardians and other case stakeholders, CASA of Union County staff and two of its interns suited up as Captain America and Mr. Incredible, and the bear mascot from Kenilworth's David Brearley Middle and High

School. All cheered for the family, where each took their first official photo together, and the children spent time with the superheroes and school mascot.

Families received a hot breakfast donated by Urban Griddle in Elizabeth; a flower bouquet provided by Jane Phillips who, until her recent retirement, headed the Adoption Day Committee for the judiciary; and a gift basket from CASA of Union County made possible by collections of board and card games, puzzles and movie night fixings from the Kenilworth school and Summit's Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child. The latter collection was spearheaded by Desiree Mitchell, daughter of CASA volunteer Hope Mitchell, and included fleece blankets made with classmates. In addition, each child and all siblings received

their own superhero dress-up costume and books hand selected by the Phi Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha. Each family received a WalMart gift card funded by the Union County Bar Association. Costumes for CASA's interns were loaned by generous members of the Facebook Buy Nothing Group in Cranford and Garwood.

Today, more than 120,000 youth nationwide need a permanent home, with an average wait in foster care of four years. Each year, 23,000 youth age out of the system without a family or safety net in place. For details on CASA of Union County's mission, the need for volunteer advocates and how to become one, contact Lucia at [lfield@casaoofunioncounty.org](mailto:lfield@casaoofunioncounty.org) or log on to [casaoofunioncounty.org](http://casaoofunioncounty.org).



*(above) Upon completion of each adoption, the homes were visited by a caravan of fire trucks, police cars, court staff, law guardians and other case stakeholders, CASA of Union County staff and two of its interns suited up as Captain America and Mr. Incredible, and the bear mascot from Kenilworth's David Brearley Middle and High School.*



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## WHAT, WHERE, AND WHEN IN OLD KENILWORTH: BILLY BUFFY'S TAVERN: A 95-YEAR-OLD LANDMARK

Billy Buffy's Tavern has been around for 95 years – but how did it start out? A 2015 interview with Anna "Dottie" Placek (1925-2020) tells the story. "My parents came to Kenilworth with my brother and me in 1927. My dad, Frank Placek, physically built a tavern-restaurant on the corner of Monroe Ave. and 8th St. He designed it with large dental masonry along the roofline to remind him castles in his native Bohemia. He called it the Kenilworth Tavern. It was Prohibition time, so he sold no alcohol. We lived in the apartment upstairs. It was a busy place. Busloads of workers got off on 8th St., came in, and went to the factories next door. Weddings, meetings, and social events were there. It was a popular place. The Depression came and the factories laid off almost everyone. Business dropped to almost nothing. My mother, Bertha, worked as a waitress trying to hold onto the business. They were forced to sell. In 1933 Prohibition was repealed and the new owner could serve liquor. Had my folks been able to hold on a little longer they would have gotten through."

Sam Reze, next owner, was famous for his daily spaghetti dinners. He sold to John Alvino of Newark. In the late 1930s the name became the Monroe Tavern. From the early 1940s to about 1955 it was owned by Frank Fronhofer who lived upstairs with his family. Most of this period it was known as the Monroe Tavern. It was a popular place. Frank's brother, Lenny, was bartender. In the late 1940s and early 1950s it was known as the Monroe Castle or Fronhofer's



(above, left - right) Anna "Dottie" Placek.  
William "Bill" Gargiles.

Castle due to its castle-like appearance. Sometime after the castle-like dental masonry was removed.

About 1956 the George and Frances Bilawsky, Jr., owned it and lived in the apartment. About 1959 to 1963 Adele Gorda of Linden was the proprietor. Then came Pasquale Capaldo of Garwood. He named it Cappie's Tavern. About 1966 he sold it to Rodman "Buffy" Decker and wife Veronica, and to William and Anna Hausleiter. They named it Buffy's Tavern. In 1972 William "Bill" Gargiles, of Cranford, a big NY Giants football fan, acquired the business and modified the name to Billy Buffy's Tavern.

A popular patron in the 1960s and 1970s was jovial William "Bill" Moneypenny of town. He drove the old 28 Bayway Bus and sang to riders. He appeared on the old Name that Tune TV show.

He often performed at the tavern.

Gargiles recalled November 18, 1976. "Before noon, two armed men forced me, the cook, and a patron to the floor. One hit the patron in the head with a gun that required stitches. They fled with \$1,800. I chased them and fired three shots at them. The Kenilworth Police, led by Det. Sgt. Charlie David [later chief], investigated. The next day he saw the getaway car a block away on 9th St. The robbers tried to flee from him."

News report indicate that David chased them west on Rt. 22. Officers Donald Tisch [later chief] and Victor Smith joined in the pursuit. The two robbers, prison parolees and Elizabeth residents, were captured. Charges included armed robbery, atrocious assault and battery with a weapon, evading police, reckless driving, and driving without a license.

In its history the tavern sponsored an adult bowling team and during Gargiles's ownership it sponsored Buffy's Tavern Cobras, a top performing adult softball league team. He holds the tavern ownership record of 50 years. He just installed a new kitchen and is serving suppers once again.

In closing, "Three cheers to Bill Gargiles and Billy Buffy's Tavern!"

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

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## SHADOW: AMERICA'S PUP DELIVERS HOLIDAY JOY



(above) Shadow suites up at Christmastime as "Shadow the Reindeer" and assists NJVN volunteers in delivering Christmas gifts and toys to Veterans' families in seven New Jersey Counties. This program brought toys and gifts to children, many of whom were very happy to see Shadow, as well as food, clothing and resource assistance to dozens of families in need.

### HELP! I FOUND A WILD BIRD

The Raptor Trust is a 501(c)3 organization that provides free medical care to thousands of Injured and orphaned wild birds each year.

Located at 1390 White Bridge Road, Millington, NJ The Raptor Trust's outdoor aviary trail is open to the public Daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no charge and no reservation necessary for general admission. Donations are always appreciated.

The Raptor Trust is also offering private guided tours, virtual school programs, and outdoor field trips and scout programs through the winter months.

You can email [education@theraptortrust.org](mailto:education@theraptortrust.org) with any booking questions or find more information on our website at [TheRaptorTrust.org](http://TheRaptorTrust.org).

#### New Jersey Veterans' Network

If you have ever been to a New Jersey Veterans Network event, you have probably been welcomed there by a sweet furry face and a puppy kiss. That furry face, kiss and sweet disposition come from the NJVN Mascot, Shadow, known as America's pup.

Shadow is a therapy dog in training. A therapy dog (unlike a service dog for which he is often confused) is a dog who can lend comfort and affection to people dealing with emotional issues or turmoil during events or in a rehabilitative setting. In Shadow's case he often serves to help break down barriers some veterans can put up while isolating because of depression or PTSD. Animals can act as great grounding tools, bringing Veterans into the here and now and away from traumatic memories that can often be hard to escape.

Shadow is a great example of how effective animals can be in lifting spirits! During 2021, a year that has been difficult for many, he has been part of dozens of visits to veterans', and events and has brought smiles to our military heroes throughout the state at everything from National Guard Units to Veterans shelters. Last year he was even presented a Unit Patch by the National Guards' 143rd transportation Unit during a visit.

"Shadow seems to know when someone could use some love and he is quick to run up tail wagging and give it, he is truly a blessing," says proud Shadow Poppa and NJVN Outreach Director, Frank "Doc" Schupp. Often times during speaking engagements at veteran events

Shadow will go through the crowd with his handler calming down veterans who may be anxious and turning frowns into smiles; it's very hard not to smile when he's around," he continued.

For the last two years as part of the NJVN Helping Heroes project, Shadow suited up as "Shadow the Reindeer" and assisted "Santa-Doc" and other NJVN volunteers, including fellow canine companion and NJVN Mascot "Mush" in delivering Christmas gifts and toys to Veterans' families in seven New Jersey Counties. This program brought toys and gifts to over 140 children, many of whom were very happy to see Shadow, as well as food, clothing and resource assistance to dozens of families in need.

In addition to his many veterans' visits this past year, Shadow could also be seen on a recent mini documentary Vice News did on Doc Schupp and during footage rolled while NJVN President Michael Boll was being interviewed on Fox and Friends.

#### 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 entire team is truly committed and dedicated with helping veterans and their families live a better way of life. If any veteran or their family members needs any assistance, or if you'd like to contribute or join our team of volunteers, please contact us at via email [NJVN1775@gmail.com](mailto:NJVN1775@gmail.com) or call 973-332-1556.

## JERSEY LANDSCAPE COLLECTING ITEMS FOR KENTUCKY HURRICANE VICTIMS

*We write to ask for your prompt support for the people of the State of Kentucky following torrential rain, damaging winds, large hail, tornadoes and flooding. At this time, the State of Kentucky is entering its second week of recovery efforts.*

*On December 10th, multiple tornadoes touched down in the State of Kentucky, including the "long-track" twister that tore through Mayfield, Kentucky. This tornado stayed grounded for over 200 miles and through five states, making it the longest tornado in the nation's history. More than 1,000 properties have been destroyed and at this time, 78 deaths have been reported in the State of Kentucky with at least 12 of them being children. The disaster has left more than 900 storm victims being housed at state park resorts and hotels, 3,280 residents without power, 2,000 of them FEMA says cannot be restored for weeks.*

*We at Jersey Landscape & Garden Supply would be extremely grateful if you would join us in supporting and assisting in the relief to those in the State of Kentucky. You can do this in the form of donating non-perishable foods, new clothing or blankets, shoes, winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves, ear muffs, boots, trash bags, flashlights, LED lanterns, diapers, horse feed, space heaters, toys, books, electronics, gift cards, etc. In addition to these items, you can also donate to a fund set-up by the team at Jersey Landscape & Garden Supply to allow the State of Kentucky to rebuild and allow residents to return home.*

*Jersey Landscape & Garden Supply will be collecting donations through Wednesday, February 2nd, 2022; Monday through Saturday, 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at their location, 528 N. Michigan Avenue, in Kenilworth.*

*With the cold and holiday season in mind, we understand that the State of Kentucky may seek additional resources to ensure an effective response beyond what we the people outside of Kentucky can provide. If so, we urge you to promptly review the request for assistance for the State of Kentucky.*

Sincerely,

*Jennifer Hartmann*  
Owner

*John Hartmann*  
Owner



# MEMORY OF UNION COUNTY RESIDENT HONORED DURING CELEBRATION OF LIFE

## NJ Sharing Network

On September 12, thousands of walkers, runners and volunteers participated in NJ Sharing Network's 5K Celebration of Life Walk and USATF Certified Race at the organization's headquarters in New Providence, NJ. The event, which was presented by Hackensack Meridian Health and Pfizer and supported by dozens of other generous sponsors, honored those who gave the gift of organ and tissue, paid tribute to those who have received a transplant, offered hope to those currently waiting for a transplant and remembered the lives lost while waiting for the gift of life.

Family members and friends of the late Caitlin Nelson, 20, of Clark, NJ, gathered together to form the "Caitlin Gives" 5K team to honor her memory and show their support for NJ Sharing Network's life-saving mission. Caitlin, who tragically passed away in 2017, was an organ and tissue donor who saved and enhanced the lives of many others. Caitlin was a social work student hoping to be a pediatric oncology social worker and she was also a huge proponent of organ donation. At one time prior to her tragic accident, Caitlin told her mother to donate her organs if anything ever happened to her because she said someone could use them. Members of "Caitlin Gives" offered the following message during the 5K Celebration of Life:

Caitlin was a selfless, loving, amazing, warm-hearted girl who was one month shy of celebrating her 21st birthday when she tragically

passed away. Her passion for life and devotion to helping others was remarkable.

Caitlin's brilliant smile had this way of lighting up a room. She had an incredible, dazzling charm and a sweet, warm personality. She was a fervent supporter of organ donation and strongly encouraged her family and friends to sign up to become organ donors. Caitlin gave the gift of life by donating her heart, lungs, kidneys, pancreas, and liver. She also donated over 200 bone and tissue grafts. Her gifts have already helped 50 people.

Our angel baby accomplished so much and touched so many lives in her 20 years. As a daughter, sister, girlfriend, cousin, friend, and niece, Caitlin will be missed terribly but will live on in our minds and hearts.

## ABOUT NJ SHARING NETWORK

Dedicated to saving lives through organ and tissue donation, NJ Sharing Network is the non-profit organization responsible for the recovery and placement of donated organs and tissue for the nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents waiting for a life-saving transplant. With headquarters in New Providence, NJ, the organization, selected by NJBIZ as one of the state's "Best Places to Work" for the fourth consecutive year, is also part of the national recovery system, serving the 110,000 people on the national waiting list.

To learn more, get involved and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit [www.NJSharingNetwork.org](http://www.NJSharingNetwork.org).



(above) Caitlin Nelson gave the gift of life by donating her heart, lungs, kidneys, pancreas, and liver. She also donated over 200 bone and tissue grafts. Her gifts have already helped 50 people.

Photos by NJ Sharing Network



(above) Family members and friends of the late Caitlin Nelson, 20, of Clark, NJ, gathered together to form the "Caitlin Gives" 5K team to honor her memory and show their support for NJ Sharing Network's life-saving mission

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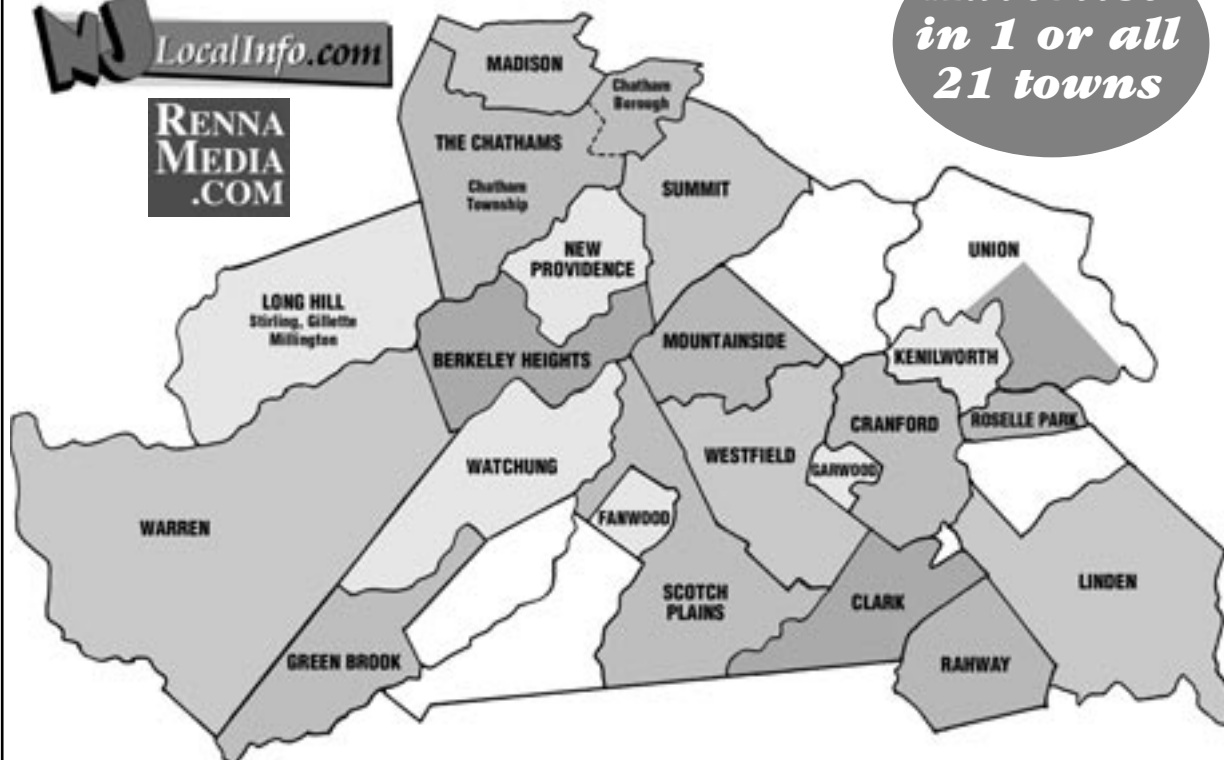
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## KENILWORTH CHESS CLUB IS BACK ON BOARD

The Kenilworth Chess Club resumed meeting on November 11, 2021, after twenty months of being closed due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

Club President Jack McCorkell of Cranford held a "Welcome Back Tournament" to celebrate. The casual unrated tournament excited members, and even some new arrivals, who were itching to play "over the board" again. The three-week tournament ended in a tie for first place between Hanna Malko of Clark and Joe Renna of Cranford.

The club was formed in 1972 amid the chess craze in America spearheaded by Bobby Fischer's march to the world championship. For 45 years the club was a force to be reckoned with as its member roster included many Master level players, including state champions.

The club has a reputation for being friendly and accommodating. It welcomes non-members with no obligation or cost. It's a place where beginners can learn in a casual setting without being intimidated. Strong players are generous with their time in analyzing and giving instruction.

The club's website, [kenilworthchessclub.org](http://kenilworthchessclub.org), is well read and features an award-winning blog by Michael Goeller and other instructional features.

Players are welcome to just pop into the Kenilworth Chess Club with no formalities every Thursday evening at 8 p.m. at the Kenilworth Community Center located next to Kenilworth Borough Hall on the Boulevard and the corner of 24th Street.



(above, l-r) Brandon Verno of Kenilworth, John Moldovan of Garwood, Hannah Malko of Clark, Jack McCorkell of Cranford, Mark Shoengold and Louis Leiggi of Colonia analyze a critical position during the post mortem of Welcome Back Tournament game between Verno and Leiggi held at the Kenilworth Chess Club.

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