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**ISSUE 100 • JANUARY 2022** 

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### **THE 28TH ANNUAL MEYERSVILLE TREE LIGHTING**

By Sheila Leonard

On Sunday, December 5, 2021, Long Hill held its 28th Annual Meyersville Tree Lighting for the townspeople and anyone in the surrounding areas who wanted some Christmas cheer.

This fun event had generous help from many businesses such as, Garden State Fireworks for the firework show, Mountain Hill Bistro for allowing everyone to gather with them as well as making delicious food for purchase, Great Swamp Greenhouse for the donation of the tree, Pine Valley Tree Service for the installation and decoration of the tree, Starbucks and Dunkin' of Stirling for providing refreshments, the Long Hill Chamber of Commerce for contributing hot pretzels, and Centercourt and Meyersville Inn for allowing parking in their lots.

The event began at 5 p.m. with people waiting excitedly for snacks, refreshments, Santa, and the Christmas tree to be lit. Santa made an appearance to read all the children's Christmas lists that were collected at the event. Also, there were elves on scooters as well as a little car riding around all of Long Hill! The Meyersville Tree Lighting in Long Hill, NJ was one to remember for all!





(above, l-r) Meyersville Tree Lighting committee members Ben Lindeman, Trish Gianakis, Beth Smargiassi, Mountain Hill Bistro owner Jose Jimenez, Billy Perillo, Victoria Perillo, and Bruce Meringolo.



# Long Hill LEADER

#### Renna Media LLC, Publishers

202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016 Long Hill Leader is published by Renna Media. 3,600 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in the Long Hill.

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Email: editor@rennamedia.com

Online at www.rennamedia.com like us on facebook.com/ Long Hill Leader Tina Renna: 908-418-5586 tinarenna@rennamedia.com Joe Renna: 908447-1295 joerenna@rennamedia.com

## SING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH FREE WORKSHOPS!

Love singing? Come sing with the Hickory Tree Chorus on Wednesday evenings in January from 7 to 9 p.m. The Chorus hosts singing workshops via Zoom or in-person for fully vaccinated members and guests as covid safety protocols permit. Participants will learn more about chord-ringing, fun-filled, four-part harmony. Broadway, Beatles, and more!

Hickory Tree is an award-winning women's chorus singing four-part a cappella harmony in the barbershop style. We are passionate about

music, performance, fun and friendship. We believe every voice counts and encourage women singers of all ages, colors, ethnicities, and orientations to visit us and share our joy of music.

Please register for Sing in the New Year by email info@hickorytreechorus.org or call 908-377-1399. More information at hickorytreechorus.org. Watch the promo video on the Hickory Tree Chorus YouTube channel: youtu.be/mcvYYvPV4rQ.



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## FORMER BOY SCOUTS SUPPORT TOYS FOR TOTS

#### Flintlocks BSA, Inc.

The Flintlocks enthusiastically support the Boy Scouts of America Patriot's Path Council Toys for Tots campaign every year. All of them have sons who were in the scouts, and many have grandchildren now participating. President John Koneski was the first one to donate toys this year. Further, while Dr. Michael Hart says that he likes to buy toys which he thinks he would enjoy playing with himself, Bob Pysher's wife, however, likes to purchase a spread of different age group toys, including dolls for the girls, to ensure that all children in the various age groups get toys. Because of this, it is not a surprise that Frank is attracted to the Trouble game (just kidding). Also, since Chuck is shy, he hid behind a basketball.

The Flintlock volunteers who donated toys to the program are former scouts who also donate







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the Boy Scout Council, which includes helping to do maintenance and build new structures throughout all of the scout camps. They meet at

approximately 5,000 volunteer hours per year to the Flintlocks building at Camp Winnebago, located at 102 Timberbrook Road, Rockaway, NJ, the first building on the right, every Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Guests are always welcome.



(above) The happy group of Flintlock volunteers donating toys to the Toys for Tots program.

## SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Submitted by Christopher D. Sands The General Phil Kearny Camp #20 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) held its quarterly meeting on November 13th, 2021 at the Abraham Clark House, located at 101 West 9th Avenue, Roselle, NJ. Three new members were sworn in and a presentation on FreeMasons in the Civil War was given. Since the new school year has started, the camp has begun planning how it will cover the awarding of the SUVCW ROTC/JROTC to the

approximately thirty schools in the area. The camp covers all of North Jersey above the Raritan River to the New York Border.

The SUVCW is a fraternal organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of veteran heroes who fought and worked to save the Union in the American Civil War. The organization meets four times a year and the meetings in 2022 will be on March 5th, May 7th, September 10th, and November 5th, all starting at 1 p.m. For more information, visit suvcw.org.



(above) Camp Commander, Peter Lindsey, swears in Fredrick Dillman and Robert Caruso during the SUVCW Gen. Phil Kearnv #20's November 13th meeting.

## **SHADOW: AMERICA'S PUP DELIVERS HOLIDAY JOY**

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

Christina Roche - Realtor®

We are a group of veterans and volunteers dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live better lives. 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 NJVN1775@gmail.com, or call 973-332-1556.

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(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 this holiday season.





# IS IT REALLY POSSIBLE FOR A KID TO LEARN HOW TO RUN FASTER?

Retired San Francisco 49ers QB Joe Montana, is arguably one of the greatest NFL players that has ever played football...when his son started playing football it would have made sense for him to help his son learn how to play Quarterback.

But that's not how it went. Joe Montana had to hire a quarterback coach to help his son be a better football player. Here's possibly the greatest NFL QB of all time, needing to hire someone else to help his son. It was not that Joe Montana was not equipped for the job...it was that his son needed a second voice to help him get to the next level.

Many parents who have much less knowledge, experience, and skills than Joe Montana are in the same boat in regards to helping their kids get stronger, faster, and more confident.

Most parents we've come across want their kids to eat healthier, be more active, and have a stronger mindset. But many have told us they need help.

Even with the constant reminders of telling their kids to eat more vegetables, get outside instead of watching TV, practice their sport more, get to bed earlier...they find that sometimes the message falls on deaf ears...and some backup would be helpful toward their vision of helping their kid be the best they can be.

Parents have told us that having us(the Grit Athlete Performance Coaches) as a second voice to help reinforce the habits they want for their kids...is changing the game.

Further...Our Grit Athlete Founder has over 20 years experience with training athletes himself...and certainly knows a LOT more about getting stronger and faster than the average parent...But has all 3 of his children(9, 8 and 6) enrolled in Grit year round....because he knows the power of that second voice.

And after they come through our program, parents tell how it's turbocharging their parenting. Here are some real-life examples that have been reported...

Before, parents struggled with getting kids to eat vegetables...now their kids are asking for more.

Before, parents struggled with getting their kids to get enough sleep....now their kids are getting to bed earlier on their own.

Before, parents struggled with getting their kids to watch less TV or play video games...now they are limiting these activities because they've learned they don't really help them become better athletes.

Before, parents struggled with helping their kids have more confidence...now their kids are doing things out of their comfort zone more often which is helping them believe in themselves which further improves self-esteem.

Before, parents had no clue how to help their kid get faster...now they are faster because they've learned that speed is a skill, and a few simple tweaks can make a kid faster immediately.

Before, parents could not get their kids to make their beds...now their kid makes their

bed each morning on their own because they learned that making their bed in the morning helps them have a better day.

Before, parents struggled with getting their kids to do even one good push-up...now they catch them in their room practicing on their own.

Before, parents wanted their kids to have more determination and grit when training new things...now they are staying calm under pressure and seeking out challenges instead of avoiding them.

Many times it's not about telling your kid to eat more vegetables or stop watching TV...but rather finding the right environment for them to be more successful.

Right in your backyard, there's a team of great coaches waiting to be second voices for your kids...so that all the things you're teaching as parents will be reinforced. But most importantly, the results you're after for your kids will actually become a reality. The Grit Athlete winter Sports Performance session starts on January 3rd in Berkeley Heights NJ, visit www.gritathletes.com to fill out an application for your child.

Grit Athlete Performance is a Sports Performance Training Company located in Berkeley Heights that helps kids ages 6-18 get strong, fast, and confident so they can have a bigger and better future. They have just released the dates for their winter program that starts on January 3rd. Visit www.gritathletes.com to register for their winter session...or see below for more details...

## **SPORTS PERFORMANCE TRAINING FOR KIDS AGES 6-18** STARTS JANUARY 3rd (9 SPACES REMAINING)



Warning: The Winter session is the most popular session of the year and always sells out before it starts. We strongly encourage you to scan the QR code today and enter your information to make sure your child doesn't get locked out of the winter session.

# Attention Parents of Kids Ages 6-18 **UPDATE: THE GRIT ATHLETE PERFORMANCE WINTER PROGRAM HAS ONLY 9 SPACES REMAINING** Give us 12 weeks with your kids and we'll have them

stronger, faster, and more confident...guaranteed.

### Here's what parents can expect to happen:

- They will get stronger which means when they show up to their sport they'll be able to perform better than ever.
- They will run faster and jump higher so they can show up to their next season and people will start asking what the heck have they been doing.
- They'll become more coordinated and improve agility which means they'll pick up new skills their coaches teach them faster.
  Your children will start to eat better because we'll be educating them daily on what's good and what they should avoid
- ...don't be surprised if they start asking you to buy more vegetables.
- Confidence will skyrocket. When kids get stronger, faster and more fit...their confidence will rise...so will their self-esteem which means their performance in every aspect of life will get better.
- Their mindset will improve. We're going equip your child with very specific mindset skills that'll help them learn how to transform how they think about mistakes and failures.

## HAPPY PARENTS TALKING ABOUT THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL TRANSFORMATION OF THEIR KIDS...

• "When my son started Grit he was quiet, shy, and had some difficulty with movements...Now he is confident in himself, has become more vocal, and is mastering the exercise he struggled with in the past."

- Jen O'Brien, Grit Athlete Parent

• "My son is more disciplined and confident in himself"

- Steve Hughes, Grit Athlete Parent

• "I have watched my children become more confident and vocal."

- Christine Stramandinoli, Grit Athlete Parent

• "His confidence has shot up in the last few months...and has carried forward to the way he approaches other activities like sports and schoolwork. My son is now making his bed daily and exercising every day."

- Catherine Solfaro, Grit Athlete Parent



Warning: The Winter session is the most popular session of the year and always sells out before it starts. We strongly encourage you to scan the QR code today and enter your information to make sure your child doesn't get locked out of the winter session.

## **ON THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE, THERE MAY BE A FORGOTTEN STORY**

#### **County of Morris**

From disdain for the devil to powerbrokers building legacies, The tales behind Morris County street names are many. Did you know Buddy Lane in Mendham Township was named for the first Seeing Eye Dog? And whatever happened to Devil's Punchbowl Road in Morristown and Florham Park?

There are histories, legends and mysteries surrounding the names given to the streets where we live in Morris County. Who still recalls that Shunpike Road in Chatham Township was sonamed because it was an alternate route to toll roads, otherwise known as pikes? Thrifty travelers would "shun" them.

The history of street names is easily forgotten, and the paved lanes often are renamed as new people move into towns. The reasons for the original monikers fade or name changes become necessary.

"History and local folklore, as well as memorials and tributes to local citizens, lay behind the names affixed atop of street poles and stone markers, yet the stories are often overlooked and lost through time," said Jan Williams, a historian at the Morris County Office of Planning and Preservation.

She has initiated the Morris County "Street Histories Project," hoping to keep alive the stories behind street names by inviting everyone to share what they may know. The office is developing what historians call a "crowdsourced" history project, asking residents or anyone else to send contributions to an everevolving public document designed to collect the histories.

The project's current form is a rough and evolving webpage listed at Planning & Preservation Street Histories Project. **SHARE A STORY** 

You do not have to be a historian to share a street name story. That is the point of a "crowdsourced" history project. Just contribute a street name and a narrative. Submit what you know and it may jog someone else's memory and lead Morris County to more information.

Start by sending an email to Jan Williams at: jwilliams@co.morris.nj.us

Needed are the street name, the town, the story or legend and, when possible, please submit a photo of the street sign.

"People really like being part of Morris County history, and I'm so grateful for that. They are so invested," said Williams of the project.

The project is important because roads played a vital role in the development of communities, commerce and leisure in Morris County and



bygone industries, structures, farms and people. Some pay homage to presidents or citizens. Many remember those who, in service to their country, gave the last, full measure of their lives.

On the "Street Histories Project" website, lost Rich & Powerful service members are marked with a gold star.

Williams says the project grew from her habit of keeping notes about local lore and mythology regarding local street names after numerous members of the public asked her about the origins of some strangely labeled roads.

#### **DEMONS & ANGELS**

Punch Bowl Road in Morristown and Florham Park is a frequent topic. Many people assume the name emerged from a glacial indentation in the landscape by the road. That is not completely accurate. The region was originally called the Devil's Punchbowl.

"Just imagine. According to some of the longtime local residents, early settlers would say, 'Don't go in that area - it's the devil's punchbowl.' Or early mothers would refer to it while warning their kids about being out after dark," Williams explained, noting the old road that passed through the area took on the name, "Devil's Punchbowl Road."

However, when the Morristown Ladies Golfing Club purchased the area in the 1890s, they took umbrage with the reference to Lucifer. Giving the matter some due diligence, the club gave a much shorter moniker to the region and, as a result, the long street that passed through: Punch Bowl Road.

However, the righteous piety did not end there. The golf club also omitted the 13th hole from its course.

"It lends credence to the folklore. Maybe they were prim and proper and didn't want 'devil' associated with anything," Williams said. "It's charming that the etymology changed not only for the area, but down to the street name."

Many street signs have an "honor blade," an honorary street name atop the official sign to name it for a veteran who died in service or even a noted community leader.

Riverdale's Post Lane is named for Peter Post, who established residential and industrial buildings in the area in the 1730s. An honor blade was added in 2013, designating Post Lane as Capt. "Papa" Joe Ezzo Way, for the Riverdale Fire captain who died while responding to a call in August 1982. Feeling ill, Ezzo managed to control the tanker he was operating long enough to pull off the road before dying behind the wheel. Captain Ezzo is also remembered on the National Fallen Fighters Memorial.

Some street names were changed with the advent of technology.

In the 1990s, Boonton Township was adopting a modern 911 alert system. That modern technology brought a series of problems, including requiring streets to be renamed so that they would not be confused with similar sounding streets. For example, local residents Dorothy and George Newton, Jr., lived on North Road, which was similar to another street in town. Therefore, Mr. Newton, a historian,

elsewhere, and their names reflect the history of requested their North Road be changed and designated "Whispering Pines Road" in honor of the trees behind his home – trees planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.

Streets Named by the Rich & Powerful for the

New York financiers Joseph Blackwell and Henry McFarlan lent their names to two of Dover's main thoroughfares, Blackwell Street and McFarlan Street – both of which had portions absorbed years later by Route 46. The businessmen purchased a large chunk of the unincorporated "village" in 1917 while settling a debt owed by the owners of the local iron works. The 450 acres they acquired included the iron works and what is now the central business district in Dover that grew up around it, although there were only 12 buildings at that time.

Blackwell and McFarlan began laying out streets in the village in classic grid patterns, and took the time to name them.

The "Street Histories Project" has already stirred interest and received some responses from local residents.

One Mendham Township resident contributed information recently about a development where the streets are named for places in Bermuda, such as Devonshire Lake, Langford Drive and Penderhill Road. The developer who built the neighborhood apparently was fond of his vacations in the tropical North Atlantic islands.

The "Street Histories Project" also has since learned that the Township of Butler's street names designate many luminaries, including Auguste Bartholdi, the sculptor of the Statue of Liberty. The story is that he was a friend of the town's namesake, Richard Butler, who also was founder of the Ace Hard Rubber Works. In decades gone by, Ace combs were handed out to schoolchildren on picture day in Butler - hence, the significance of Ace Road in the township.

#### MYSTERIES

The project would like to learn more about many other streets, including:

Featherbed Lane in Harding Township. That cannot be by accident.

Collegan Lane in Mine Hill. The street no longer exists, but it is noted on old maps. Some evidence suggests it was named for W. Collegan, who may have been a miner.

Kossuth Street in Wharton is probably named after a long-gone establishment known as Kossuth Hall, which was the meeting place of a Hungarian group called the Lajos Kossuth Society, named in honor of the leader of the Hungarian Revolution. However, the "Street Histories Project" would love to learn more. After all, the street runs parallel to Wharton's nod to a hero of the American Revolution - Washington Street. Was that coincidental?

Washington Street, Lane, Court, Avenue or Boulevard in any town.

The "Street Histories Project" would like a photo of every street named for George Washington in every town in Morris County, where the General headquartered during the Revolution. The idea is to collect one photograph representing each street.

## **HIRING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IS A WIN FOR EVERYONE**

#### **Community Access Unlimited**

Ronald Vigliano has proven himself as a valuable employee with nearly 22 years of experience working at ShopRite. He prepares orders, delivers them to customers, and processes returns at the bustling store.

Tonya Hopson enjoys her job at Target and has worked at the store for 18 years, stocking and organizing in different departments and preparing drinks at Starbucks.

Vigliano and Hopson are two of thousands of people with developmental disabilities who have unique skills and a desire to work in the United States. Yet across all age groups, people with disabilities are much less likely to be employed than people with no disabilities.

The 2018 American Community Survey found that only 36% of people with disabilities were employed, compared to 77% of the total population. Further, according to a 2019 Census Bureau report, workers with disabilities earn only two-thirds as much as the average worker without a disability. Workers with disabilities have also been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, making this a critical time for inclusive hiring practices in American economic

recovery.

"If they have the ability to do the work, they should be allowed to have a job," Vigliano said. "Why not?"

Vigliano's boss, Store Manager Frank Juba, said the store welcomes employees with different abilities and works to accommodate them.

"We're flexible, and a gentleman like Ron is fully capable," Juba said. "We find a position that suits their abilities."

Vigliano and Hopson receive job coaching support from Community Access Unlimited (CAU). Every week, Deirdre McCray visits them at work to provide supervision and assistance with any work-related tasks that they need, such as, learning how to use a register or taking a training test. People with disabilities that are seeking assistance in their job search, job readiness training, or businesses looking to hire people with disabilities in New Jersey, can contact CAU. CAU is an Elizabeth-based nonprofit that seeks to integrate individuals into the community through comprehensive ways.

"The people I work with know their jobs," McCray said. She added that she helps members stay on task and follow any business procedures



(above) Tonya Hopson at home with her dog Lexie



(above) Ronald Vigliano delivers an order at ShopRite



and rules, as well as may pitch in physically depending on the member's needs.

The extensive benefits of hiring people with different abilities are becoming welldocumented. A 2018 study by Accenture, in partnership with the American Association of People with Disabilities as well as Disability:IN, reports that businesses that actively seek to employ people with disabilities outperform businesses that do not. Their revenues were 28% higher, net income was two times more, and profit margins were 30% higher. Additionally, workers with disabilities have high employee retention rates, high reliability, and a positive effect on employee motivation.

Vigliano and Hopson said that working is an important part of their lives. They feel productive during the day, get out of the house, and most importantly, earn an income that helps pay their bills and other expenses.

"I like to be out of the house and the activity - I like to be working," Vigliano said.

Hopson said she loves the people she works with and appreciates that the store hires people with different abilities.

"There's someone at my job who is deaf, but she works great," Hopson said. "They're equal at my job and there's no prejudice or anything."

After paying bills, Hopson said her favorite way to spend her money is to take care of her dog, Lexie. For Vigliano, it's important to have extra funds to buy his favorite foods.

"We work to find the right jobs for people with different abilities, and we want businesses to see the opportunity and benefits of hiring them," said Sandra Lynch, Managing Assistant Executive Director of Supported Employment and Vocational Programs.

#### **ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED:**

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), who is celebrating 42 years in 2021, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU provides support and gives voices to adults and the youth who traditionally have little support and no voice in society. CAU helps people with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization, and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making, and civil rights. CAU currently serves more than 3,000 individuals and families, with the number growing each year. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908-354-3040, online at caunj.org, or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ, 07202.



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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.

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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, 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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