

# KENILWORTH BUSINESS + LIFE

Published by Renna Media, LLC

Issue 169 • February 2022

*Place Your  
Ad In  
This Space!*

A GREAT  
ATTENTION GRABBER



First come, first served.

**CALL TINA  
FOR DETAILS  
908-418-5586**

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BRIDGEPORT CT  
PERMIT NO. 390

ECRWSS

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSSDDM\*\*\*\*\*

**POSTAL CUSTOMER**

**KENILWORTH, NJ 07033**

## THREE FAMILIES MADE OFFICIAL ON NAT'L ADOPTION DAY

*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;



(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.

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).

## Full Color Flyers and Menus Printed and Mailed to Every Home and Business in Town!

**MENUS - PRINTING - \$50 PER THOUSAND**

Rate is for quantities of 25,000 or more. For quantities less than 25,000 cost is \$68 per thousand. 11"x17" / Full color / 2 sided / 60lb gloss coated stock / Includes folding (quarter fold or tri-fold, with or without coupons tab)

**FLYERS - \$35 PER THOUSAND**

8.5" x 11" / Full color / 2 sided / 60lb gloss coated stock / Tri-fold add \$10 per thousand

**INSERTED AND MAILED TO EVERY HOME AND BUSINESS**

\$60 per thousand. (as low as \$30 per thousand depending on quantity.)



**Joe Renna at 908-447-1295**  
email: [JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com](mailto:JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com)

# BUSINESS + LIFE KENILWORTH

Renna Media LLC, Publishers  
202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

Kenilworth Business Life is published by Renna Media. 3,600 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Kenilworth.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

©2021 Contents of this newspaper cannot be reproduced without written consent from Renna Media LLC.

## SEND US YOUR NEWS

Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (accomplishment, honor, award, etc.). Then send us your news!

Email: [editor@rennamedia.com](mailto:editor@rennamedia.com)

Online at [www.rennamedia.com](http://www.rennamedia.com)

like us on [facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/KenilworthBusinessLife)

Kenilworth Business Life

Tina Renna: 908-418-5586

[tinarena@rennamedia.com](mailto:tinarena@rennamedia.com)

Joe Renna: 908-447-1295

[joerenna@rennamedia.com](mailto:joerenna@rennamedia.com)

## FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP – FEB. 15

Are you feeling stressed and alone in trying to cope with the effects of a loved one's mental illness?

NAMI Union County's Family Support Group is for family members and caregivers of persons with mental illness.

The group is led by NAMI-trained facilitators

and is a peer support group that allows participants to gain insight from others facing the same challenges.

Zoom sessions are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 7 – 8:30 p.m. To register, email Denise at: [namiunioncounty@yahoo.com](mailto:namiunioncounty@yahoo.com) with your name, town, and phone number.

## SUPER BOWL LVI PARTY FUNDRAISER

The David Brearley PTO's Super Bowl LVI Party Fundraiser is back by popular demand!

Only \$20 for 2 chances to win a fully catered party for 12-15 people. 1st & 2nd place winners receive: Football themed paper goods & decorations; snacks, chips, dip; hot & cold food, pizza, sandwiches, pasta; 2 cases of soda & 1 case bottled water; 2 dessert items & a \$25 gift card. In addition, the 1st place winner will receive an official NFL Jersey of their choice (\$149 Value).

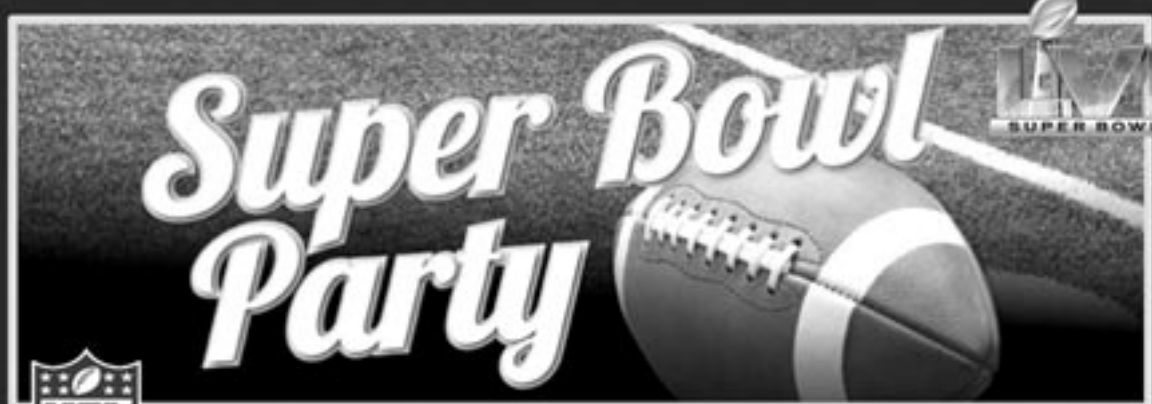
The drawing will be held live on Wednesday,

February, 9 2022 at 6 p.m. on the PTO Facebook Page.

Participants must live within a 5-6 mile radius of Kenilworth. Delivery will be 'curbside' on Saturday (2/12) and Sunday, February (2/13).

Payment can be made by cash or check (payable to DBMHS PTO) and can be dropped off at 624 Boulevard, Kenilworth, Monday thru Friday, 3-6 p.m.; or VENMO \$20 to DBMHS-PTO@PTO-DBMHS, please add to notes: SB Donation. All entries must be received by 6 p.m. on February 8th.

### DBMHS PTO – SUPERBOWL PARTY RAFFLE



**\$20.00 PER CHANCE (2 ENTRIES)**

**2 WINNERS SELECTED – 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE AND 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE**

#### BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!! HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL GET:

- Catered party for 12-15 people with football themed decorations & paper goods (including cups, plates, napkins & utensils)
- Hot & cold food: pizza, wings, sandwiches, etc.
- 2 cases of soda: diet & regular / 1 case of water
- Snacks including: chips, dip, etc.
- 2 dessert items
- \$25.00 Gift Card
- 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE WINNER ONLY will receive an official NFL Football Jersey for the team of their choice (up to \$149 retail value)

**DRAWING WILL BE LIVE ON WEDNESDAY, 2/9/22 @ 6PM on PTO FACEBOOK PAGE.**

*All participants will receive 1 entry into both the 1<sup>st</sup> place and 2<sup>nd</sup> place parties but can only win once.*

*Participants must live within a 5-mile radius of Kenilworth.*

*Delivery will be 'curbside' on Saturday (2/12) and Sunday, February (2/13).*

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE & EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment can be made by cash or check (payable to DBMHS PTO) and can be dropped off along with this portion of the form in the SUPERBOWL Raffle Box located in the Main Office. OR VENMO \$20 to DBMHS-PTO@PTO-DBMHS WITH NOTE: SB Donation / your name / cell number  
**\*\* All entries due by 6pm, Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>!!!**

## CHESS LESSONS

International Master  
Yaacov Norowitz

- Group or private lessons
- Live or virtual options
- Classes for all Levels  
from beginners on up



Call or email Joe Renna:  
[joerenna@rennamedia.com](mailto:joerenna@rennamedia.com)  
908-447-1295

For more info about lessons.

## WHAT, WHERE, AND WHEN IN OLD KENILWORTH:

## IS THERE A FORGOTTEN CEMETERY ON N. 7TH ST.?

Earlier this year I visited the N. 7th St. home of Gabor and Kristen Sztancsik, a short way up from the Boulevard. The visit was a follow-up to a most unusual phone call I received from Mrs. Sztancsik. She told me “When we landscaped our yard, we found granite tombstones and when I do gardening, I find bits and pieces of granite from tombstones.” I said to myself, “Gosh, is there a long-forgotten cemetery on N. 7th St.?”

My visit confirmed large granite grave stones – the kind placed flat to the ground. One was engraved. Another was not. Just as Mrs. Sztancsik told me beforehand, there were chips and pieces, too. The stone was that of WWI veteran Joseph Albert Tellone, a private in the 33rd Infantry of the 17th Division.

Questions arose. “Was the Sztancsik yard part of a long-forgotten N. 7th St. cemetery?” “Who was Pvt. Tellone?” “Was he a local soldier who slipped from local memory?” “How did the stones get there?” Research brought some answers.

Research revealed that Pvt. Tellone was one of three children of Italian immigrant parents and was born in Newark, N. J. on April 10, 1895. He served in the U. S. Army, 1917-1920, during WW. He and his wife Sadie resided in Newark and later moved to Florida where he died on February 3, 1945. He is buried in the Restland Memorial Park, East Hanover, N. J.

As a deceased veteran, Pvt. Tellone is entitled to a military grave marker. The application denotes that a granite marker ordered August

1945 was “never received” by Restland Cemetery. Months later a second marker was ordered – this time in bronze. It made it to his gravesite. So, how did the granite marker end up in a N. 7th St. backyard?

An old-time N. 7th street resident, who no longer lives in town, recalled that as a boy, homes were built on the west side of N. 7th street in the early 1950s. Trucks loaded with dirt dumped it to help level rear yards. It’s possible that wherever the fill dirt originated, that it contained discarded grave stones and bits and pieces of others. Since some were blank, it seems plausible that the stones were discards of the grave marker company and that the “never received” Tellone stone accidentally was discarded with others by the grave marker company.

Mrs. Sztancsik stated, “As a matter of respect to Private Tellone, we’re going to keep the stone and not toss it out.” She is a Cranford school teacher and her husband, Gabor, is a landscaper. They moved to Kenilworth in 2002 and have two children. They are thanked for sharing this unusual discovery that is now part of Kenilworth history.

If you have something to share contact historian Walter E. Boright at 908-256-5200 or drbori@aol.com. Data for this article were supplied by Kristen Sztancsik and Ancestry.com public documents.



(above) North 7th St. home where makers were found.



(above) “Never received” Pvt. Tellone granite marker.



(above) Pvt. Tellone bronze marker in place at cemetery.

Source: Findagrave.com public records.

**SAM'S**  
**LANDSCAPING**  
PAVERS\* PATIOS\* MULCH\* DRAINAGE\*  
GRADING\* SOD\* PLANTING, & MORE!

**SPRING IS COMING...**  
**RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW! OUR SCHEDULE FILLS FAST!**

**COMPLETE PROPERTY CARE, SEE OUR GOOGLE REVIEWS!**

**908-441-7302**  
**SAMSLANDSCAPING.COM**





(above) Nationally acclaimed creative gardening expert, author, speaker, consultant and radio show host C.L. Fornari of Cape Cod, Mass., will give a virtual tour of her floral, vegetable and fragrance/bird gardens, providing creative gardening tips along the way, during a "Garden Party in Winter" to be presented virtually by the Kenilworth Historical Society on Sat., Feb. 26, at 2 p.m. For information and to register, please call 908-709-0434.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST FEB. 13

Please join Troop 83 of the Boy Scouts in thanking our Veterans at their 5th Annual Troop 83 Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser. The event takes place on Sunday, February 13, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Kenilworth's VFW Hall, which is located at 33 S 21st St, Kenilworth, NJ. Tickets are \$7 per person. Veterans and children under 5 eat free.

You can buy tickets online at [njtroop83.square.site](http://njtroop83.square.site), or email [troop83mom@gmail.com](mailto:troop83mom@gmail.com). You can choose curbside pick-up or dine-in. Must show proof of purchase.

## ATTEND A GARDEN PARTY IN WINTER

Nationally acclaimed creative gardening expert, author, speaker, consultant and radio show host C.L. Fornari of Cape Cod, Mass., will give a virtual tour of her floral, vegetable and fragrance/bird gardens, providing creative gardening tips along the way, during a "Garden Party in Winter" to be presented virtually by the Kenilworth Historical Society on Sat., February 26, at 2 p.m.

During the enlightening and entertaining virtual stroll through Fornari's gardens, participants will have the opportunity to view, from the comfort of their homes, colorful combinations of annuals and perennials, acquire innovative ideas for planters and other containers on porches and decks, gain useful guidance for growing vegetables and easily preserving or cooking them with the harvest and discover creative ways to have fun with plants.

For a registration fee of \$20, participants will receive an electronic link to attend, via Zoom, the approximate 50-minute virtual program and question-and-answer session. They also will be sent a recipe for one of Fornari's refreshing garden-based cocktails (which can be made with or without alcohol) to enjoy during the garden party; a package of pre-wrapped shortbread cookies; some seed packets; and a program outline that highlights many of Fornari's plant recommendations and gardening techniques. For further information and to register for the program, please call 908-709-0434.

Proceeds from the "Garden Party in Winter" event will benefit the Kenilworth Historical Society's Oswald J. Nitschke House (c. 1880) "living history" museum and cultural arts center by helping defray operating expenses, including the cost of an elevator that makes all levels of the site ("living history" museum, exhibition center and cultural arts center) fully accessible to everyone.

C.L. Fornari is a master gardener and garden consultant who transformed from artist to garden communicator in 1995. She has authored

eight books including, most recently, *Sand and Soil – Creating Beautiful Gardens on Cape Cod and the Islands*, published by David R. Godine Inc., and numerous articles for a variety of well-known publications. Fornari also is a published photographer. She is the host of *GardenLine*, a call-in talk-radio program aired on WXTK 95.1 FM, and co-host of *Plantrama*, an award-winning podcast produced with Ellen Zachos. Fornari is a sought-after speaker and educator at horticultural trade shows, garden clubs, botanical gardens and master gardener symposiums nationwide. In 2012 she was named Garden Communicator of the Year by the Perennial Plant Association, and in 2013 she won three awards from the Garden Writers Association. In 2015 Fornari launched the first annual Cape Cod Hydrangea Festival, a 10-day regional celebration of open gardens that raises funds for local non-profit organizations.

The Oswald J. Nitschke House "living history" museum and cultural arts center, which features heirloom and "teaching" gardens, is one of Kenilworth's few remaining original 19th-century farmhouses and the former home of the late Mayor Oswald J. Nitschke (1867-1934). Notably, it is the only museum of its kind in the area to portray and interpret everyday life in the early 1900s, particularly the inspiring story of late 19th-/early 20th-century immigrants in a developing suburb.

The Kenilworth Historical Society is an independent, volunteer-based, non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c) (3) organization that, as owner and operator of the Oswald J. Nitschke House "living history" museum and cultural arts center, is dedicated to the research, preservation and interpretation of the historic home, local history and culture. To learn more about Kenilworth Historical Society programs/activities, please visit the organization's website at [www.kenilworthhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.kenilworthhistoricalsociety.org) and follow the Kenilworth Historical Society on Facebook.



# JACOBSON

## APPLIANCES

- Financing Available
- Special Discounts
- 50% off Sales Tax

**FREE DELIVERY**  
Open Mon. & Thurs. 10am - 7pm;  
Tues., Wed. & Fri. 10am - 6pm;  
Sat 10am - 5pm; Sun - closed

All Major Credit Cards Accepted    

725 Rahway Ave - Elizabeth  
**908-354-8533 • 908-352-2232**  
[www.jacobsonappliances.com](http://www.jacobsonappliances.com)

**\$25 OFF FOR KENILWORTH RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES**

One per customer. Can not be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase of \$399.00. must present this coupon at time of purchase. Offer Expires 2/28/22.



**WE STOCK MANY POPULAR CIGARS AS WELL AS HUMIDORS AND ACCESSORIES.**

**LOYALTY PROGRAM**  
**\$10 CREDIT** TOWARDS PURCHASE.  
AFTER SPENDING \$100 - NO TIME LIMIT.

**17 W. WESTFIELD AVE.  
ROSELLE PARK, NJ  
908-241-8764  
CACIQUECIGARSSHOP.COM**

**FREE EXPRESSO, GLASSES AND ICE.**

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

**PARTIES • EVENTS • FUND RAISERS**  
"LET OUR CIGAR ROLLER ENTERTAIN AND CAPTIVATE YOUR GUESTS AT YOUR BBQ, PARTY, OR CHARITY FUND RAISER. CONTACT SHARI 908-403-7383"

# 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!

# BLOOD DONATIONS ARE CRITICALLY NEEDED

The American Red Cross is facing a national blood crisis – its worst blood shortage in more than a decade. Dangerously low blood supply levels are posing a concerning risk to patient care and forcing doctors to make difficult decisions about who receives blood transfusions and who will need to wait until more products become available.

Blood and platelet donations are critically needed to help prevent further delays in vital medical treatments, and donors of all blood types – especially type O – are urged to donate.

In recent weeks, the Red Cross had less than a one-day supply of critical blood types and has had to limit blood product distributions to hospitals. At times, as much as one-quarter of hospital blood needs are not being met.

The Red Cross continues to confront relentless challenges due to COVID-19, including about a 10% overall decline in the number of people donating blood as well as ongoing blood drive cancellations and staffing limitations. Additionally, the pandemic has contributed to a 62% drop in blood drives at schools and colleges.

“Winter weather across the country and the recent surge of COVID-19 cases are compounding the already-dire situation facing the blood supply,” said Dr. Baia Lasky, medical director for the Red Cross. “Please, if you are eligible, make an appointment to give blood or platelets in the days and weeks ahead to ensure no patient is forced to wait for critical care.”

The Red Cross urges donors to support patient care by making an appointment to give blood or platelets now for the weeks ahead. To schedule an appointment, use the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions – including face masks for donors and staff, regardless of vaccination status – have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive.

To donate blood, individuals need to bring a blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification that are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also must meet certain height and weight requirements.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In addition to blood donors, the Red Cross also needs the help of volunteers to support critical blood collections. Blood drive volunteers play an important role by greeting, registering, answering questions and providing information to blood donors throughout the donation process. To volunteer to support Red Cross blood collections, visit [redcross.org/volunteertoday](http://redcross.org/volunteertoday).

## 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.'"

- Quenton L.

MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED - INCLUDING MEDICARE



**Northeast Spine & Wellness Center**

1043 Raritan Rd., Clark, NJ 07066  
www.nespinecenter.com  
Call 732-827-0800  
for your RISK-FREE Consultation!



# CASA KIDS ARE THE BOMB IN FEBRUARY

## CASA of Union County

As many share a card of appreciation, friendship or romance this month for Valentine's Day, CASA of Union County – the only nonprofit tapped by the Union County courts to advocate for area youth in the child welfare system – has kicked off a campaign to share the same warm and fuzzies with the child-victims from our own community it serves each day.

Says Executive Director Mariel S. Hufnagel, "There's so much going on in the world right now, and so much on everyone's shoulders. But for those in the child-welfare system at no fault of their own, the burdens are even heavier and, sadly, the support is often less. Just as we rally around our own loved ones from time to time to ensure they feel special, we want to ensure local children involved in the child welfare system also get to feel the love this month! With each order, one of our dedicated volunteer advocates will be able to make a special delivery to share your gift with their youth. Let's show these kids that they live in a community that cares for them. It's as easy as heading to our website and choosing how many kids' cups you want to fill during this month of love."

Order a hot cocoa bomb for a foster youth or foster sibling set by logging on to

[casaofunioncounty.org/CASA-Kids-Are-The-Bomb](http://casaofunioncounty.org/CASA-Kids-Are-The-Bomb) now through Friday, February 4, for distribution the following week. One cocoa bomb is just \$10; additional quantities are reduced.

CASA of Union County aims to raise awareness about Union County youth in the child welfare system as well as the need for community volunteers to train as advocates to protect their best interests. Funds raised not only provide foster youth a surprise sweet treat when their advocate next visits, but also support the recruitment and training efforts involved in maintaining a corps of trained volunteer advocates serving as extra eyes and ears for local judges and a voice for their assigned youth.

With the ambitious goal of being able to provide an advocate for every youth that needs one, the organization remains steadfast in efforts to ensure its work continues, even amid the pandemic. Last year, CASA volunteers donated more than 7,000 hours to serve 339 child-victims and 99.7 percent of all court recommendations were accepted by judges.

For details on how you can become an advocate and Change a Child's Story for a lifetime, and other ways to support the agency's efforts, contact Lucia at [info@casaofunioncounty.org](mailto:info@casaofunioncounty.org).



Please join us in thanking our Veterans at  
our  
5<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Troop 83 Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser  
Sunday, February 13, 2022

8:00am-12:00pm  
Kenilworth's VFW Hall  
33 S. 21<sup>st</sup> St. Kenilworth  
Tickets: \$7.00 per person  
(Veterans & children under 5 eat FREE)  
Buy tickets online at: <https://nitroop83.square.site>  
  
or email: [troop83mom@gmail.com](mailto:troop83mom@gmail.com)  
Choose Curbside pick-up or Dine-in  
Must show proof of purchase.

**VIRTUAL**  
*Guitar Lessons*  
**ONE-ON-ONE**  
60 MINUTE INSTRUCTION \$45

BFA, The New School-NYC  
MFA, Rutgers-Newark

Learn at your own pace with customized sessions. Private, virtual lessons conducted via Skype, Facetime and Zoom. Other platforms available upon request. For information, contact:  
**PJ Cotroneo 908-380-8438**  
[pj@pjcotroneoband.com](mailto:pj@pjcotroneoband.com)



**WIRED RITE**  
**ELECTRICAL SERVICE**  
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL  
ALL PHASES OF ELECTRICAL WORK  
• FIXTURES • OUTLETS • PANEL CHANGE  
• SECURITY • HIGHHATS • CEILING FANS

Senior Citizen Discount      24 Hour Emergency Service      Free Estimates

**201-600-3530**

**REYNOLDS PLUMBING**

 (908) 276-5367  
(201) 666-0003  
358 North Avenue East  
Cranford, NJ  
[www.reynolds-plumbing.net](http://www.reynolds-plumbing.net)  
Lou DiFabio      Dan DiFabio  
Lic. #4237      Lic. #11749  
Residential / Commercial / Industrial

**WOOD FLOORS**  
Sand • Stain • Refinish • Repairs • Installation  
**CARPET & RUGS**  
Clean • Stretch • Sanitize • Repairs • Bind  
**RESTOREMYFLOORS.NET**  
A DIVISION OF CARPET DOCTOR LLC.  
116 SUSSEX ST. WESTFIELD, NJ  
**908-913-4650**  
Insured \* References \* Visa / MasterCard  
**10% Discount** On labor only. Materials not included. Cannot be combined with other offers. Exp. 2/28/22.



Tell a CASA Kid  
They're the Bomb!

**FEBRUARY IS THE MONTH  
OF LOVE**  
**Gift a Hot Cocoa Bomb to a  
CASA Youth**  
1 bomb for \$10  
or gift to a sibling group  
2 for \$18 | 3 for \$27 | 4 for \$36

Local and want some cocoa bomb love for you and yours?  
We can do that, too! Pickup of all cocoa bombs on  
Wednesday, Feb. 9 between 9-5 at CASA's office,  
1143 East Jersey Street, Elizabeth.

**GALLUZZO BROTHERS**  
Quality Dumpster Rental Services  
**COMMERCIAL  
& RESIDENTIAL**  
Short & Long term



Municipal garbage removal & recycling services since 1998.



**973-424-9640**  
[galluzzobrothers@aol.com](mailto:galluzzobrothers@aol.com)  
**galluzzobrothers.com**  
24-hour emergency service available.

**Tank Solutions**  
OIL TANK EXPERTS

We are your professional environmental contractor with over 40 years of experience!

**TANK SWEEPS \$50 OFF**

**OIL TANK REMOVAL  
FLAT RATE \$1,895**

 **Call: 908.964.2717**  
**[www.OilTankSolutions.com](http://www.OilTankSolutions.com)**  
**Located in Kenilworth, NJ**  
**Today's Solution to Yesterday's Pollution**



## FEBRUARY 14 IS NATIONAL ORGAN DONOR DAY

### NJ Sharing Network

February 14 is all about sharing some love in New Jersey - and not just because it's Valentine's Day! NJ Sharing Network and its many healthcare partners and volunteers throughout the state are working together to register as many organ and tissue donors as possible in celebration of National Organ Donor Day.

"National Organ Donor Day is about taking action and inspiring others to learn more about how they can save lives through organ and tissue donation," said Joseph S. Roth, president and chief executive officer of NJ Sharing Network. "One organ and tissue donor can save eight lives and restore health to over 75 people. I am confident that everyone's efforts on National Organ Donor Day will go a long way toward bringing hope to those currently waiting for a transplant."

Currently, there are over 110,000 Americans - nearly 4,000 of whom live in New Jersey - waiting for a life-saving transplant. In New Jersey, one person dies every three days waiting for an organ transplant.

However, the generosity of those in the Garden State is providing hope for the future. New Jersey's organ and tissue donor registrations continue to rise thanks to strong community education and outreach efforts as well as simplified ways to register as an organ and tissue donor are also helping to save more lives. It is easy for New Jerseyans to register in any of the following options:

Online at [NJSharingNetwork.org](http://NJSharingNetwork.org); Through the iPhone Health App; In person at your local Motor Vehicle Agency

Observed every year on February 14, National Organ Donor Day is dedicated to spreading awareness and education about organ and tissue donation. It is also a day to recognize loved ones who have given the gift of life, have received a transplant, are currently waiting or did not receive an organ in time. National Organ Donor

Day was started in 1998 by the Saturn Corporation and its United Auto Workers partner with the support of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and many non-profit health organizations.



(above) Cranford's Emma Rothman Celebrated 10 Years with Heart Transplant in 2021.

Photo courtesy of NJ Sharing Network

## 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.

**908-759-8077**

**[irenemoniz63@yahoo.com](mailto:irenemoniz63@yahoo.com)**

## St. Theresa School [www.mysts.org](http://www.mysts.org)



**Registration is open for the 2022-2023 school year.**

**Call (908) 276-7220 for more information**

**540 Washington Avenue  
Kenilworth, NJ 07033**

Our Salesian school is nestled in the town of Kenilworth and provides a safe and personal education for the children.

As a "Salesian" school we are a youth friendly environment for our children helping them to develop into "good Christians and honest citizens," always respecting their developmental needs, in a family atmosphere.

The concept of "value based" education is at the heart of St. Theresa's curriculum.

Our objective is to cultivate the growth of each student as a whole person. We aim to achieve academic excellence as well as teaching them the value of self worth.

### We offer :

- Early Childcare from 6 weeks
- Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 Full Day classes
- Full day educationally based Kindergarten
- Before and Aftercare
- Middle States Accredited
- 1:1 Chromebooks 3-8
- STEM classes
- Supplemental and compensatory instruction
- Interscholastic Sports for Boys and Girls
- Award Winning Forensics Program
- Active Home School Association
- Financial Assistance through the Archdiocese of Newark



**We're In This Together.  
Contact-free Online Rentals.**

**SKIP THE COUNTER**

**(908) 259-1020**

750 Boulevard • Kenilworth, NJ 07033

**\$1 Pays Your First Month's Rent.**

+

**\$24 Admin Fee Waived When You Complete Your Rental Online Or Over The Phone.**

+

**FREE Lock & Key.**

Taxes & fees may apply. Subject to availability. Offer valid for new customers only.

**[www.AccessSelfStorage.com](http://www.AccessSelfStorage.com)**

# HELP US SAVE A VET!!

Michael D. Boll, Director, New Jersey Veterans Network

For the last few years the New Jersey Veterans Network and its mobile outreach team has been aggressively seeking out veterans in need and providing them resources to have a better way of life. This is only possible because of our volunteers' commitment and dedication with helping our veteran community. Donations are wonderful and help us purchase food, clothing, medical equipment and other life changing items, however someone's time is what makes an enormous difference.

During our charity's existence, we have provided meals for thousands of veterans and servicemen, dropped off PPE and clothing to veterans, provided medical equipment for disabled veterans, had 30 cars donated to disabled veterans, and most importantly we successfully saved the lives of veterans who were in some type of a dangerous crisis.

Every day we lose approximately 22 veterans to suicide and unfortunately this number hasn't changed over the years. Depression, PTSD and trauma run extremely high among our veterans and their family members. There are countless lifesaving programs out there for veterans, however it's a difficult task to get veterans to trust others and go get the help they need to live a better life.

The New Jersey Veterans Network also has a program called Operation Rebound that consists of a mobile outreach team that helps to train veterans for events like races, hiking, and other athletic activities. The goal of Operation Rebound is to do athletic events from 5k races to long distance Iron Man competitions in order to empower the veterans and show the public how people can do amazing things with the proper support. It is truly incredible to see the veterans go from no physical activity to completing these tremendous athletic challenges.

Our charity has been able to work alongside other amazing charities that always put veterans first and are capable of rapidly providing them with essential resources. Recently, we formed a veteran anti-suicide and PTSD awareness coalition, called Uniformed Heroes, that will provide peer support sponsors for any veteran in need. Our peer support sponsors will be trained by the VA and Penn Med and our goal is to have volunteers statewide to help veterans in need.

To make this upcoming Uniformed Heroes

campaign successful, we are in desperate need of volunteers from both the veteran and civilian communities. There are numerous events and daily tasks that our charity could use assistance with and we are always looking to have more volunteers willing to help us reach veterans in need.

Our goal is to provide all veterans in need with a peer support sponsor that will do whatever they can to help veterans with obtaining the resources

needed to live a better life. This is not an easy thing to do, but the New Jersey Veterans Network has already been able to make a huge difference because of the team's volunteers and its strong partnerships with other charities.

If you are interested in joining the team, please send us an email at [NJVN1775@gmail.com](mailto:NJVN1775@gmail.com) and provide your name, email, and phone number. Also, if you have any questions, and concerns please feel free to contact us at 973-332-1556.



(above) Knights of Columbus Tank Pull



(above) Memorial Day Murph Event



(above) Disabled Veteran BBQ Picnic



(above) Recycled Rides, Veteran Car Give Away Event

Photos by New Jersey Veterans Network

- Video Tape Transfers • DVD & Flash Duplication
- High Speed Photo & Slide Scanning

**VIDEO DATA SERVICES®**

**[www.vdsnj.com](http://www.vdsnj.com)**

**[facebook.com/vdsnj](https://facebook.com/vdsnj)**

**email: [ira@vdsnj.com](mailto:ira@vdsnj.com)**

**908-964-4004**

**406 Chestnut St. • Union, NJ 07083**



# FEBRUARY EVENTS AT THE KENILWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Phone: 908-276-2451 • [www.kenilworthlibrary.org/](http://www.kenilworthlibrary.org/)  
548 Boulevard, Kenilworth, NJ 07033

Monday - Wednesday: 10 AM-5 PM; Thursday: 10AM-8PM;  
Friday: 10 AM-5 PM; Saturday: 10 AM-2 PM; Sunday: 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

## FEBRUARY THEME GRAB N' GO CRAFT

Available Monday, February 7, 2022

For Kenilworth residents ages 4 – 9 years old  
when a book is checked out from the library.

The craft kits will be available  
while supplies last.

## 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.

### Let's Go To China

Thursday, February 3

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Presented by Patricia Shih at The Kenilworth  
Public Library. Ages: 8 – Adult. Explore the  
language and culture of China in honor of the  
Lunar New Year during this interactive  
presentation. This program has been funded by  
a Cultural Arts Grant.

### Black History Month Celebration

Thursday, February 17

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Ages 4 – Adult.

### Dances from Around the World

The Okra Dance Company will present dances  
from various cultures around the world, with an  
emphasis on African American heritage. This  
performance, American Dance from Africa to  
Broadway, takes the audience on a fun-filled  
journey through the evolution of popular  
American dance, from its African roots and  
European influences, to the dances of today.  
This program has been funded by a Cultural  
Arts Grant.



(above) Let's Go To China display  
presented by Patricia Shih



(above) Okra Dance Company



Home Improvement Professionals

- NO JOB TOO SMALL -  
- 100% SERVICE GUARANTEE -  
- 2500+ POSITIVE ONLINE REVIEWS -

**908-251-9441**  
**Mrhandyman.com**

License number: 13VH09897400

**10% DISCOUNT**

On labor only, materials not included. Cannot be combined with other offers. Exp. 2/28/22.

# Are you ready for the Winter!

**Check your heating unit now!**  
**Do not buy just yet. Get a second opinion**  
**from Reel-Strong. A tune-up can extend**  
**the life of your unit.**

**FREE  
ESTIMATES**

**NO  
OBLIGATION**

**0% Financing  
Available**

We are a full service installation and maintenance company.

- HEATING OIL SUPPLIER
- WILLIAMSON BOILERS
- RHEEM FURNACES AND AIR CONDITIONERS
- NATURAL GAS CONVERSIONS AND SERVICE



**REEL-STRONG**  
**HEATING & COOLING**

Master HVACR Contractor License #19HC00438000

549 Lexington Avenue • Cranford  
908-276-0900 or 1-888-480-0901  
**WWW.REEL-STRONG.COM**

**Hi-efficiency heating equipment**  
**will qualify for WARM advantage rebates.**  
NJ Clean Energy Program

**WE DO IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME!**  
**Let's discuss your heating oil or natural gas conversion.**

SAVE THIS COUPON

**\$25 OFF**  
**ANY SERVICE CALL**

May Not Be Used For Routine Maintenance.  
With Coupon – No Expiration

NEW RHEEM HEATING OR AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM

**MAKE YOUR BEST DEAL THEN TAKE**  
**\$300 OFF**

Expires: 12/31/2021. May Not Be Combined With Other Offers.

# Marketing Toolbox

Renna Media offers a full range of marketing services, in print and online, hyper-local to regional, for every budget and market size.

## NEWSPAPER ADVERTS

We mail 135,000 newspapers to every home and business in 21 towns. You can advertise in any number of towns. Ads start at \$60.

## FULL COLOR PRINTING

We print flyers and menus, full color, two sided, on coated stock for only \$35 per thousand.

## DIRECT MAIL

Insert your flyer into the newspapers and get it mailed to every home and business for \$60 per thousand and as low as \$30 per thousand for higher quantities.

## ONLINE MARKETING

Online ads and press releases designed and placed to drive traffic to your website and get your phone ringing.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

We can design and/or manage your social media campaign from passive to aggressive plans customized to work within your budget.

## WEBSITE AND SEO SERVICES

Start with an audit/analysis of your website giving you a report and recommendations for \$250.

It is highly recommended to have a marketing plan and budget before spending.

**CALL JOE RENNA FOR A FREE CONSULTATION.**  
**908-447-1295**

## RENNA MEDIA NEWSPAPER RATE SHEET

### WE MAIL 135,000 NEWSPAPERS MONTHLY!

Tina Renna 908-418-5586 • [tinarennamedia.com](mailto:tinarennamedia.com)

Joe Renna 908-447-1295 • [joerennamedia.com](mailto:joerennamedia.com)

202 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016

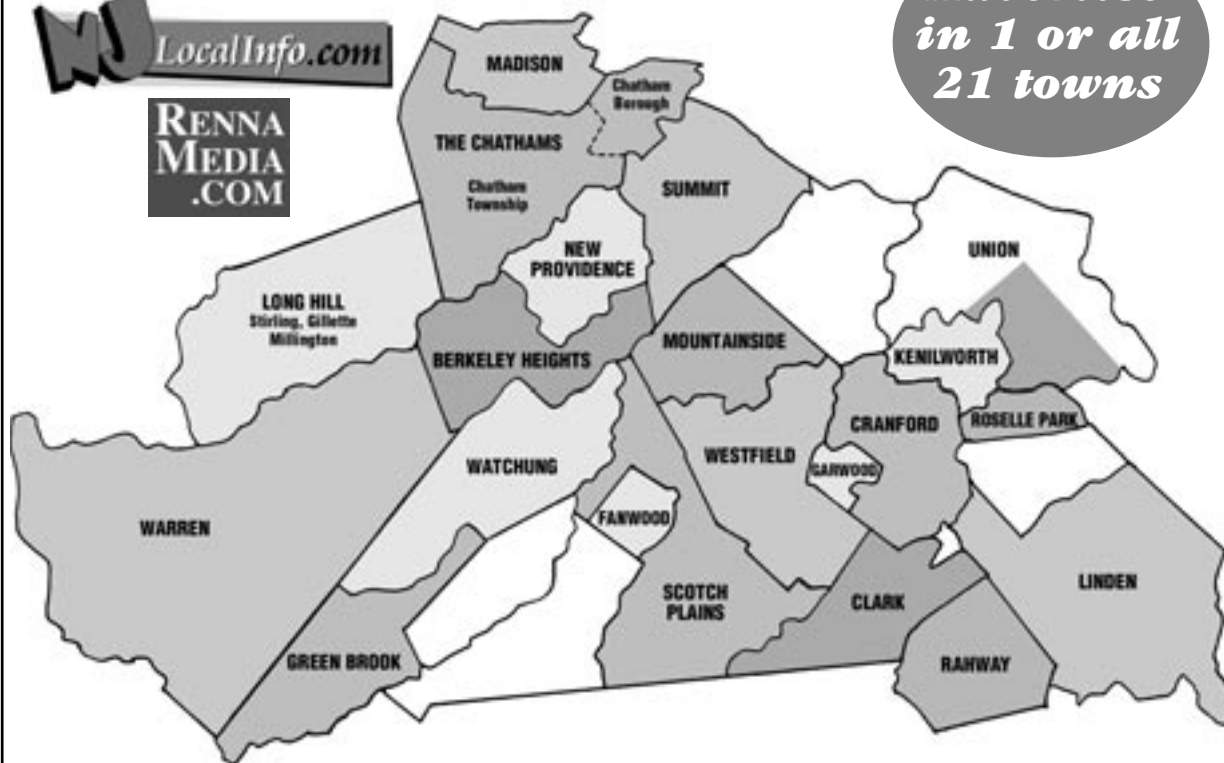
Call today for FREE consult on marketing and business plans.

Online at [RennaMedia.com](http://RennaMedia.com)

and [NJLocalinfo.com](http://NJLocalinfo.com)



Advertise  
in 1 or all  
21 towns



Qty: 4,800  
Mailed to every home and business.  
Zip: 07922



Qty: 7,400  
Mailed to every home and business.  
Zip: 07928



Qty: 6,700  
Mailed to every home and business.  
Zip: 07066



Qty: 9,800  
Mailed to every home and business.  
Zip: 07016



Qty: 3,000  
Mailed to every home and business.  
Zip: 07023



Qty: 2,200  
Mailed to every home and business.  
Zip: 07027



Qty: 3,000  
Mailed to every home and business.  
Zip: 08812



Qty: 3,600  
Mailed to every home and business.  
Zip: 07033



Qty: 17,400  
Mailed to every home and business.  
Zip: 07036



Qty: 3,600  
Mailed to every home and business in Gillette, Millington and Stirling.  
Zips: 07933, 07946, 07980



Qty: 6,300  
Mailed to every home and business.  
Zip: 07940



Qty: 2,900  
Mailed to every home and business.  
Zip: 07092



Qty: 4,900  
Mailed to every home and business.  
Zip: 07974



Qty: 12,400  
Mailed to every home and business.  
Zip: 07065



Qty: 5,600  
Mailed to every home and business.  
Zip: 07204



Qty: 9,600  
Mailed to every home and business.  
Zip: 07076



Qty: 9,600  
Mailed to every home and business.  
Zip: 07901



Qty: 5,500  
5,000 mailed to homes and businesses.  
Zip: 07083



Qty: 6,200  
Mailed to every home and business.  
Zip: 07059



Qty: 2,800  
Mailed to every home and business.  
Zip: 07069



Qty: 11,800  
Mailed to every home and business.  
Zip: 07090

### NEWSPAPER AD RATES

Rates are per month. Artwork included in price. Newspapers are black on white.

Units	Size	RATE FOR ANY 1 NEWSPAPER	RATE FOR ANY 3 NEWSPAPERS	RATE FOR ANY 6 NEWSPAPERS	RATE FOR ANY 9 NEWSPAPERS	RATE FOR ANY 12 NEWSPAPERS	RATE FOR ANY 15 NEWSPAPERS	RATE FOR ANY 18 NEWSPAPERS	RATE FOR ALL 21 NEWSPAPERS
1 Unit (Business card)	3.25" x 2"	\$60	\$150	\$250	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550
2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900
4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000
2 PAGE SPREAD	21" x 14"	\$700							
BACK PAGE	10" x 14"	\$500							
FRONT PAGE BANNER	8.25" x 2"	\$320							
FRONT PAGE BOX	1.5" x 4.5"	\$240							

Back cover, front page banner and front box reserved on first come, first served basis. Current advertiser has right of first refusal.

**PREPAY 6 MONTHS AND GET 1 MORE FREE**  
**PREPAY 12 MONTHS AND GET 3 MORE FREE**

Make Checks payable to Renna Media, 202 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016

# MEET FERNANDO PORRAS

By Jahi McDonald, CASA of Union County

By the time this goes to press, my three-month internship will have ended. What will endure, is getting to know and work alongside my fellow intern Fernando Porras. In addition to stepping up to serve as an intern a year ago — and working some 20+ hours a week since in that capacity — he is an active CASA volunteer, well into his second case as a child advocate.

From processing donor thank yous, navigating excel spreadsheets, seeking community involvement amid a virtual fundraising campaign, to shooting videos for social media, sorting and hauling holiday wish list toys, and even donning superhero costumes for Adoption Day, Fernando has been a patient, committed role model for CASA's critical work. His mantra, "Anything for the kids," is one I've heard him say countless times but seen him put into action even more.

While being an advocate and yearlong intern is plenty for a CASA of Union County highlight, it's his personal journey, and all he's made of it, that shines even brighter. After his first CASA case — a 13-year-old boy — closed, he immediately began his current case, advocating for 5- and 10-year-old brothers. His visits, he says, often include intense Beyblades battles. "I remember playing with Beyblades at that age, so it's even more memorable to bond over something I'm familiar with. Also, superheroes! Maybe I'm still a kid at heart," he quips, adding, "As an advocate, you read about their life in stacks of paperwork, but being able to spend time with them as they enjoy the little things? It gives me such a different perspective on life." When he sees their smiles, he says, he's overcome with joy.

And joy is something — like every CASA youth — that Fernando deserves. In April 2018, a month before his college graduation, he was diagnosed with leukemia. He says, "Though I was told the diagnosis was just a matter of 'bad luck' ... my life turned upside down." Sparing the details of hospitalizations, procedures and finishing the tail-end of college amid unknowns and medical crises, let's take Fernando's lead and focus on the positive: August marked three years

in remission. Continued monitoring from his medical team as well as navigating other lifelong health challenges resulting from the very treatments that saved his life are now his norm.

Fernando continues, "In summer 2019, I started trying to piece my life back together. I was discussing the future with a hospital social worker and she told me CASA would be a perfect fit. I'm so glad I took her words to heart; I did my research, went to an information session, and the rest is history."

In addition to advocating for three youth, the 25-year-old cancer survivor used the yearlong intern assignment as a sabbatical of sorts, undergoing an intensive and thorough LSAT study period and he's now amid the nerve-racking law school admissions process. I asked him how he juggles it all, when each ball carries great weight: "I've always been a 'yes' person. If something needs to be done, I'll do it. Some may not see that as a positive as I do ... but there's always time to do more."

In addition to enduring love and respect for his close-knit family, Fernando's fondness for travel also keeps him on his toes. Before he embeds himself in a law school lecture hall, there are plans to travel as much as possible, amid Covid-restraints and minding his health, of course. He recently visited family in Ecuador and soon will share his unwavering support for his beloved Atletico de Madrid soccer team with a jaunt to Spain.

When life was suddenly outside his firm grasp, Fernando reached wider and gripped harder, there's no question. Still, he's always sure to make time for the betterment of others' lives. He fondly quotes an uncle, "Never say you 'can't' do something, because what it really means is that you 'won't.' It's stuck with me and allowed me to work outside my comfort zone ... comfortably."

While experiences make you who you are - and in Fernando's case that certainly proves true - he also reminds me that people make those experiences. For us at CASA, that's Fernando. For Fernando, that's his family, including



(above) Fernando Porras

grandparents who modeled resiliency and hard work, lessons for which he is grateful. When, during the last weeks of his internship, Fernando unexpectedly lost his beloved grandfather, colleagues at services saw firsthand his tightly woven net that is family, and that his commitment to life and bettering it comes from a deep well of connection, generations old.

Asked to look back on recent years, when best-laid plans didn't happen and an unexpected diagnosis did, he offers: "I truly think everything happens for a reason. I'll always have an endless number of unanswered questions — but at the same time, I'll always be grateful that I found CASA of Union County."

In addition to serving as a fall marketing intern for CASA of Union County, Jahi McDonald is a 2020 graduate of Rutgers University-New Brunswick, with plans to begin a career in public relations and marketing.

## ABOUT CASA OF UNION COUNTY

Volunteers with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County serve as extra eyes and ears for family law judges hearing cases involving the county's abused, neglected or abandoned children removed from home and placed in foster care.

CASA volunteers have court-ordered access to all parties in a foster child's life, including foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, and incorporate into court reports findings from these contacts as well as from their own time spent with the youth. Advocates ensure a youth's needs are met and their time in care is as short as possible.

It is CASA of Union County's goal that every Union County foster child have an advocate, yet half of the more than 500 such youth still await one. Could you be their voice? Contact Lucia to learn more [lfield@casaoofunioncounty.org](mailto:lfield@casaoofunioncounty.org) or visit [casaoofunioncounty.org](http://casaoofunioncounty.org).

## Full Color Flyers and Menus Printed and Mailed to Every Home and Business in Town!

### MENUS - PRINTING - \$50 PER THOUSAND

Rate is for quantities of 25,000 or more.

For quantities less than 25,000 cost is \$68 per thousand.

11"x17" / Full color / 2 sided / 60lb gloss coated stock / Includes folding (quarter fold or tri-fold, with or without coupons tab)

### FLYERS - \$35 PER THOUSAND

8.5" x 11" / Full color / 2 sided / 60lb gloss coated stock / Tri-fold add \$10 per thousand

INSERTED AND MAILED TO EVERY HOME AND BUSINESS

\$60 per thousand. (as low as \$30 per thousand depending on quantity.)

Joe Renna at 908-447-1295

email: [JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com](mailto:JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com)



### FLYERS

**\$35**

PER 1,000

### MENUS

**\$50**

PER 1,000

## ONLINE ADS & PRESS RELEASES DRIVE LOCAL TRAFFIC TO YOUR WEBSITE

### • GET UNLIMITED CLICKS

An alternative to expensive pay-per-click programs

### • FREE AD DESIGN AND COPYWRITING

Advertising webpage includes many features including write-up, images, video, Google map, etc.

### • POSTS ARE SHARED THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

Posts shared on multiple Facebook pages and twitter.

### • PAID SEARCH ENGINE PROMOTIONS

Posts are promoted by industry, key words and location.

### • TRACKABLE RESULTS

All ads include a live view counter.

Joe Renna at 908-447-1295

email: [JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com](mailto:JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com)



**\$10  
PER POST**


Block of 20 for \$200

Single post is \$20



Call Today for a Free Estimate!  855.624.6655



AS SEEN ON  
**GEORGE TO THE RESCUE**  


*Magnolia*<sup>TM</sup>  
HOME REMODELING GROUP

ROOFING | SIDING | WINDOWS  
KITCHENS | BATHROOMS | BASEMENTS  
MASONRY | DECKS | PORCHES



**Payment Plans**

WINDOWS \$209	BASEMENTS \$395
KITCHENS \$389	BATHROOMS \$199
ROOFING \$249	DECKS/PATIOS \$189
SIDING \$289	PORCHES/STEPS \$185

**0% Plans Available!**

Estimated monthly payments.  
Rates & payments based on credit approval.

**VIRTUAL MEETINGS ALSO AVAILABLE**

**Interior & Exterior Remodeling | Family Owned & Operated**

**100% FINANCING AVAILABLE | 30+ YEARS EXPERIENCE**

NJDCA 13VH07755300

**MagnoliaHomeRemodeling.com** 