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Published by Renna Media, LLC. On-line at RennaMedia.com

Issue 194 • March 2024

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HONORING THOSE CURRENTLY SERVING: CAPTAIN MENDOZA

Submitted by Michael T. Naya, Jr.

Kenilworth resident Captain Jerusalem Mendoza, Academy for Information Technology Class of 2013 is currently serving in the United States Army, 10th Mountain Division Sustainment Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry). Jerusalem explained how he joined the military and why.

“During my freshman year in the spring of 2013 I was in ROTC so I was a college student and also taking Army leadership classes. We would have PT from 6:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. and we would do that regularly. I was offered a three and half year campus based scholarship so I did not have to go to basic training. I went to Rutgers, New Brunswick where I received my B.A. in 2017 in Criminal Justice and was commissioned at the same time. Because I did not have to go to basic training I was commissioned at the same time.

Joining the military is two fold. I wanted to enlist out of high school because I initially did not like school so I compromised. I went to school, got my degree, and went into the military. I chose the Army specifically because you saw the commercials on tv and since high school I knew I was a leader. I wanted to lead people in real life situations and in doing so the comradery grows on you. The relationships that I have built with people I did ROTC with and the people I’ve been stationed with are so different from the relationship I have with my friends for twenty to twenty-five years.”

When asked where he had been stationed over the years he explained, “I was commissioned in May, 2017 and went to Fort Lee, Virginia, now Fort Gregg Adams. After there I went to Fort Riley, Kansas and did a rotation to Europe in 2019. From there I was sent back to Fort Lee for six months, then Fort Drum, New York. I did a deployment to Setcom there and that is where I am stationed now.”

When asked about his military operation speciality he explained, “I’m a logistics officer which I enjoy a lot. If we think back to 2017 when I was ranking you were given seventeen choices and rank them all before you commission. My first option was field artillery but if I didn’t get that I chose the logistics branch because you can transfer those skills over into the civilian side. I made sure to set myself up for success when I am discharged. I’ve got two kids now and my wife is pregnant with our third so ever since I got to New York I’ve had to commit more time to the military. I do not want to miss any more time with my family and I think now is approaching a good time to leave the military.”

Jerusalem met his wife Lindsey at Fort Riley, Kansas where she was also serving in the U.S. Army at the time. We were married in September, 2019 and together they have two children Lillie and Ava. Lindsey received her discharge in 2021.

When asked about serving in the military Jerusalem stated,

“Serving in the military is something you never really think about. Initially, the first time you are putting on the uniform it is a sense of pride. No matter what kind of day you are having, nobody cares. You put on the



(above) Captain Jerusalem Mendoza who is currently serving from Kenilworth.

Courtesy photo

uniform, go to work and perform. Everybody hears that less than one percent of our country has served and that adds to the pride every service member has when putting on the uniform.

The comradery and deployed environment still makes you feel so proud. It is hard to explain but you have to rely on the person to your left and to your right. You all come from different backgrounds, different upbringings, and you are all serving for the same purpose. It’s an experience I think everybody should go through at least once in their lives to feel what it is like working in a super high stress environment. You learn a lot about yourself in those situations. The choices that you make have a big impact on other people and that is something you don’t get outside of the military except in law enforcement. I also feel that it is a similar high stress environment but military wise it is unparalleled.”

This is part VI of an ongoing series honoring those currently serving in the U.S. military from Kenilworth. If anybody knows of those currently serving, they should contact Michael T. Naya, Jr.

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202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016
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HARDING STUDENTS HELP FAMILY CARE

Through the generosity of the students of Harding School in Kenilworth, volunteers from the Cranford Elmora Soup Kitchen, a program sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, delivered over 25 boxes and bags of food to Cranford Family Care.

The food donation and volunteer program is an annual event organized by the Harding School Student Council, the Friday before the Super Bowl.



(above, l-r) Soup Kitchen volunteers Jean Wands, Skip Winter, Esther Maroney and Cranford Family Care Executive Director Julie Carroll.

Courtesy photo



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A WEEKEND OF CANS, CREATIVITY, AND COMMUNITY

Submitted by Lucia Triolo WGS



Westfield Girl Scouts successfully hosted its first Canstruction Jr. event on Saturday, Feb. 10. Seven teams of Junior, Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Scouts took on the challenge of using canned goods to build various structures. The 4th-12th graders had up to six hours to complete the designs, with the goal of bringing attention to food insecurity in our area.

On Sunday, the same teams returned to the Presbyterian Church in Westfield to sort and distribute the near 2,500 shelf-stable items. Recipient organizations included:

- Presbyterian Church in Westfield, Westfield
- Church of the Immaculate Heart Food Pantry, Scotch Plains
- Valerie's Soup Kitchen, Plainfield
- Little Flower Church Food Pantry, Berkeley Heights

- David Brearley High School Care Closet, Kenilworth
- St. Anne's Food Pantry, Garwood
- St. Joseph's Social Services, Elizabeth
- Osceola Presbyterian Church Food Pantry, Clark
- El Centro Hispano Americano, Plainfield

Canstruction® is an international campaign that raises awareness about hunger while facilitating the donation of thousands of pounds of canned food to those in need. Participants incorporate engineering, visual arts, mathematics, project management, and 3D rendering principles all while learning the importance of community service.

Congratulations to the participating Girl Scouts on their hard work and creative approach to the design challenge.



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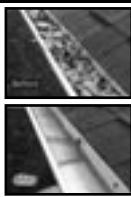
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KENILWORTH SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

The Kenilworth Senior Citizens Club would like to announce the newly elected officers of the Club. President Lillian Falcetano, Vice president Joan Hollar and Treasurer Paulette Drogon.

The Senior citizens club is always looking to welcome new members and to reconnect with previous members. Membership is open to all town residents ages 60 and above. Meetings are held at 1 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month in the senior building located at 526 Boulevard. Looking ahead we will be having our March meeting on March 6th with some St. Patrick's Day entertainment immediately following our meeting at approx. 1:30 p.m. Please feel free to join us and meet our members. The club is looking to bring more activities and speakers monthly and welcome suggestions and input. Looking forward to seeing you at the club.

The senior Center is also looking for volunteers to help with the senior lunch program on Mon., Wed. and Fri. Any help is appreciated, and you don't have to be a member to volunteer.

For more information call 908-272-7743.

HELPING VETERANS

Students from St. Theresa School in Kenilworth have been collecting essential items for the New Jersey Veterans Network. Helping to organize the items are first grader Luke Sousa-Oliveria, 5th grader Aidan Cruz and 3rd grader Nyah Harris.



DAVID BREARLEY HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS "CHICAGO: TEEN EDITION"

Brearley Theatre at David Brearley High School is proud to announce its upcoming production of Chicago: Teen Edition, a dazzling rendition of the classic Broadway musical. The show is set to take the stage on March 22nd and 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at David Brearley High School.

Directed and produced by Brearley teacher Paul Weinstein, Chicago: Teen Edition promises to captivate audiences with its compelling story, sensational choreography by Nicole LaBruno, and enchanting musical arrangements under the guidance of Music Director Keira Marques. Aidan Colon serves as the Assistant Director and Set Designer, contributing to the overall visual spectacle of the performance.

Tickets for this production are available for purchase at dbhs.booktix.com. Advance tickets for adults are priced at \$12, while tickets at the door will be \$14. Students and senior citizens can secure their seats for \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door.

Chicago: Teen Edition brings to life the tale of two aspiring vaudeville performers, Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly, whose paths intertwine when they find themselves incarcerated for murder. With the sly and charismatic lawyer, Billy Flynn, at the center of the storm, the story unfolds in a whirlwind of jazz, rivalry, and scandalous intrigue.

Starring in the lead roles are Emily Donovan as Velma Kelly, Amanda Tyra as Roxie Hart, Gabriel Moran as Billy Flynn, and Briel Alonso as Mama Morton. This talented cast is sure to

deliver a performance that will leave the audience on the edge of their seats.

Don't miss the opportunity to witness the energy, talent, and sheer entertainment of Chicago: Teen Edition at David Brearley High School. Join us on March 22nd and 23rd at 7:00 pm for an unforgettable evening of musical theater magic.

For media inquiries or additional information, please contact Paul Weinstein at pweinstein@ksdnj.org.





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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK FUN



St. Theresa School in Kenilworth recently celebrated Catholic Schools week with an assortment of activities.

The week started with Mass at St. Theresa Church followed by a tour of the school and light refreshments were served.

During the week, the school collected essential items for the New Jersey Veterans Network. The Kindergarten class had a Teddy Bear Clinic with Nurse Lisa Dilts. The children had "Buddy Day" with upper grades teaming up with the lower grades and doing a craft together.

Discovery Day was a fun filled day of mini courses for grades prek to 8th. Some of the lessons the children signed up for were Golf, Dance, Crochet, STEM, Art, Culinary Fun, Technology, Basketball, Mindful Pose and Music.

A special mass was held to celebrate St. John Bosco along with a Flag ceremony and then Bosco Bingo in which the students won fun prizes.

The week ended with a movie and snack and lots of wonderful memories.

Courtesy photos



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WHAT, WHERE, WHEN IN OLD KENILWORTH

DISCOVERING KENILWORTH’S “MODEL HOMES,” PART 3

Continuing from last month’s article about model homes, we again encounter builder James Arthur. His building of 100 houses in 100 days in 1899 was described in last month’s article. He continued building more in the early 1900s elsewhere in town. On the northside he built more homes, stores, the first borough hall, and more. A large rooming house he built in 1899 became in 1906 the main dormitory for Upsala College then located at the top of N. 21st St.

But the homes on the north side of town were spread far apart. This made it difficult to bring in electricity, water lines, construct decent roads, and to offer fire protection. He purchased over 500 lots south of the Boulevard from the Kenilworth Realty Co., the successor to the New Orange Industrial Assoc. Much of which was part of the old Faitoute farm. He planned to erect 500 homes. He planned an enclave of upscale homes with running water, electricity, cement sidewalks, macadam streets, fire plugs, and a garage housing fire apparatus. The homes were built close to one another so that utilities and more were possible.

He named this development New Orange Park. Locals nicknamed it “the Park.” It encompassed what today are the older sections of Newark and Passaic avenues, and So. 23rd and So. 25th streets, a section of which was renamed Arthur Ter. in the 1940s to honor him. To supply electricity, he erected a power house near the top of the Newark Ave. hill. Opposite it he had a tall water tower, aka a standpipe, constructed to store

pristine water from wells he had dug. Locals called it “Water Works Hill.” In 1906 he began constructing homes. He built for his own family a 7,000 sq. ft. mansion at the top of the hill. The water tower stood behind it. Destroyed by fire in 1929, the mansion site now consists of four homes built in the 1960s.

In addition to building houses in “the Park,” he moved into his enclave a good number of houses he built on the northside of town. He even hauled to the enclave a three-story hotel from Washington to Passaic Ave., later destroyed by fire. To move buildings he hired men and teams of horses. The buildings were mounted on large greased timbers. In the 1920s his son, William, took over the business. Altogether, the original New Orange Park consisted of 85 dwellings. As of recent, 84 were still standing. The main entrance to New Orange Park was at Newark Ave. and So. 21st St. It was marked by two stone pillars. Both were destroyed by motor vehicle accidents, but in the 1960s one was replaced with a replica that still stands.

Arthur had excellent marketing skills. He produced a brochure extolling New Orange Park virtues. A religious man, he did not make false claims to prospective buyers. The brochure included an image of one style of the homes he built. He offered other styles. The homes had 6 or 7 rooms plus a full bath and were on 25 ft. X 100 ft. lots. The brochure beckoned, “DO YOU WANT A Home of your own with Modern

Conveniences?” In 1906, the first homes were advertised for \$2,000, \$2,250, and \$2,500 with \$10-a-month mortgage payments. In 1921 he built side-by-side homes on Passaic Ave. The Depression was the principal cause for not building the rest of the 500 homes. Research suggests many were to be west of Faitoute Ave.

More to come in the next edition of this newspaper. Watch for Kenilworth’s housing booms of the 1940s. More about model homes, prices, and what they look like today.

Research provided by Walter E. Boright, Ed. D., historian, and Historic Signs, Inc.

Persons with inquiries about this or other Kenilworth history topics may contact Dr. Boright at drbori@aol.com or 908-256-5200.



(above) Arthur’s model home, 1906

Source: Kenil. Hist. Soc.



(above) James Arthur motoring down Newark Ave at S. 23rd St., 1910.

Source: Luke Allocco



(above) Newark Ave at S. 23rd St., modern view.

Source: Historic Signs, Inc.

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MADISON MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,300 Zip: 07940	MOUNTAINVIEW NJ Qty: 2,900 Zip: 07092	New Providence NEWS NJ Qty: 5,100 Zip: 07974	OUR TOWN <i>Rahway, NJ</i> Qty: 13,000 Zip: 07065	ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY Qty: 5,600 Zip: 07204	Scotch Plains NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY Qty: 9,400 Zip: 07076
Short Hills MILLBURN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 8,200 Zips: 07041, 07078	Summit NJ Times Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	Spirit of UNION Qty: 6,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	WARREN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,200 Zip: 07059	Watchung Post NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	Westfield NJ MONTHLY Qty: 11,800 Zip: 07090

NEWSPAPER AD RATES

Units	Size	1 TOWN	3 TOWNS	6 TOWNS	9 TOWNS	12 TOWNS	15 TOWNS	18 TOWNS	21 TOWNS	24 TOWNS
1 Unit (Business card)	3.25" x 2"	\$60	\$150	\$250	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550	\$600
2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900	\$1000
4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700	\$1900
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000	\$2200
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400	\$2700
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700	\$3000
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000	\$3400
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								

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LIBRARY FEBRUARY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

908-276-2451 • www.kenilworthlibrary.org/ • 548 Boulevard, Kenilworth, NJ 07033
Mon - Wed: 10am-5 pm; Thu: 10am-8pm; Fri: 10am-5pm; Sat: 10am-2pm; Sun: Closed

CHILDRENS' PROGRAMS:

Bingo For Children

Mondays at 6:30pm – 7:00pm

March 4, 11, 18 & 25

Bingo games for children ages 3 & up

Lap Sit

Tuesdays at 10:30am – 10:50am

March 5 & 26

Interactive stories and songs
for ages 0 – 2 years old

PJ Story Time

Tuesdays at 6:30pm – 7:00pm

March 5, 12, 19 & 26

Children are welcome to attend this story time
program dressed in their pajamas and bring
along a favorite stuffed animal for ages 3 & up.

Toddler Time

Wednesday March 6 at 10:30am – 10:50am

Interactive stories and songs
for ages 2 – 3 years old.

Lego At The Library

Thursdays at 3:30pm – 4:00pm

March 7 & 14

Build your own unique creations with Lego
bricks for age 4 – 12

Fun Friday Crafts

Friday at 3:30pm – 4:00pm

March 1 & 15

Ages: 4 – 9

Registration is required for each individual craft
one week prior to each craft.

MARCH SPECIAL EVENTS

Registration is required for all special events.

Youth Tunes Music Workshop

Saturdays, March 2, 9, 16 & 23,

12:30pm – 1:30pm

Ages: 5 – 10

4-week interactive music workshop. Children
will have an opportunity to learn how to read
notes, play a song on the recorder, learn a
dance. Each child will receive their own
recorder to take home. Children should be
available to attend all 4 weeks.

Tween Craft

Monday, March 11, 3:30pm – 4:30pm

Ages: 10 - 14

Boogie Woogie Babies

Tuesday, March 12, 10:30am – 11:00am

Interactive musical program will be presented
by Tiffany Taylor for ages: 0- 4

Yoga Story Time

Wednesday, March 13, 10:30am – 11:00am

Join us for stories and yoga poses for the
youngest listeners and their caregiver. Presented
by Heather Valente for ages: 2 - 5.

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

EARLY CELEBRATION:

ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH:

Thursday, March 21, 7:00pm – 8:00pm

Ages: 4 – adult are welcome to register for this
special event.

APRIL IS NATIONAL ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH!

Music played on multiple percussion and string
instruments from around the Arab world,
participate in rhythmic clapping, line dancing
and more. With humor and acrobatics everyone
will enjoy an uplifting experience celebrating
Arab and Muslim culture.

Read To A Dog at

The Kenilworth Public Library

Tuesday, March 26, 4:00pm – 5:00pm

Ages: For early beginning readers and those
who are learning to read, 15 minutes with
certified therapy dogs Bubble or Magnolia.

Good Tyme String Band

Wednesday, March 27, 10:30am – 11:00am.

All ages are welcome to attend and enjoy foot
tapping knee slapping banjo music

Mad Science Workshop: Brixology

Thursday, March 28 at 3:30pm – 4:30pm.

Ages: 4 – 12. Interactive workshop exploring a
unique science theme.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Paper Pals

Tuesdays, March 5 & 19 at 2-4pm, and

Monday, March 11 at 6:00pm – 7:45pm

You don't need any paper crafting experience to
join the fun.

Yarnies

Thursdays, March 7, 14 & 21 at 2-4pm, and

Thursday, March 28 at 6:00pm – 7:45pm

Bring a project. Watch demonstrations of
knitting, crocheting and weaving.

Spin - A - Yarn

Tuesday, March 26 at 5:00pm – 7:45pm.

Bring your spinning wheel or drop spindle and
create beautiful yarns! If you don't have a
wheel, you are still welcome to join us to learn
about spinning.



RENNA MEDIA LAUNCHES YOUTUBE PODCAST

Joe Renna

Renna Media has posted its first episode of
“Mind Your Own Local Business,” a podcast
that gives advice on how to run a successful
local business.

This is my 40th year in business and I draw
from my experience and expertise to give
advice. I have received so much help in my
career from mentors and seasoned business
owners, and this is a way to pay it forward.

I already offer free one-on-one consultation
on putting together business plans and
marketing plans. The show would be a way to
reach many more people.

I started in business in 1984 as a graphic
designer and grew into a full-service marketing
and advertng company. Now, along with my
wife Tina, we publish twenty-four community
newspapers mailing out 160,000 to homes and
businesses monthly.

Like the newspapers, the show will serve as a
venue to support local community service
organizations and events and production costs
will be covered by advertisers. There are several
marketing and advertising opportunities for
businesses to be included with the freedom to be
unique and creative.

I am looking forward to having a lot of fun
doing the show. It is another application of my
Do-What-You-Love mentality. The show is a
free-form magazine format production that is
flexible. I welcome business owners to join in
the fun.

To learn more call me, 908-447-1295, or
email joerenna@rennamedia.com.



Scan for First Episode of
Mind Your Own Local Business on YouTube.



It would be a tremendous help if viewers
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Joe Renna at 908-447-1295
email: JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com



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