

# BUSINESS + LIFE

# KENILWORTH LIFE

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Issue 198 • July 2024

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## PBA LOCAL 135 HOSTS 33RD ANNUAL FISHING DERBY

Kenilworth Police Benevolent Association Local 135 hosted their 33rd Annual Fishing Derby at Black Brook Park Pond on Saturday, June 1, 2024. Prizes were awarded, including bicycles, in each age category for the largest fish caught. Breakfast was served, and kids received free t-shirts.



(above) Tristen Goncalves, who won his age category for the biggest fish caught, donated his prize bicycle back to be given to the runner up.

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# MILITARY FAMILIES SACRIFICE TOO

## BUSINESS + LIFE KENILWORTH

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Michael D Boll, NJVN President

For the last few years, the New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) has been helping veterans with resources and assistance with their mental health conditions. Over time we came to realize that the veteran's family was being affected by their struggles as well. Our team had to learn how to include their family members in our outreach efforts. We lose 22 veterans each day to suicide, and they leave behind grieving families. Recently, we decided to make sure all veteran family members can use the same resources that our team has available for veterans. Sometimes we forget about the sacrifices our veteran families have to make and this country should appreciate them for this.

One thing our team decided to do was to have Gold Star families meet disabled veterans at our events, so they can work together and form a bond. This effort was extremely affective and immediately brought joy to both the Gold Star families and to the disabled veterans. By adding veteran family members to the team, it allows us to work together on our peer support and recreational therapy programs. We are honored to have veteran family members to work alongside us and know they are just as committed with helping our veterans live a better way of life.

If you need assistance, or would like to join the team as a volunteer, please send us your name, email, and phone number to [NJVN1775@gmail.com](mailto:NJVN1775@gmail.com).

### ABOUT NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK

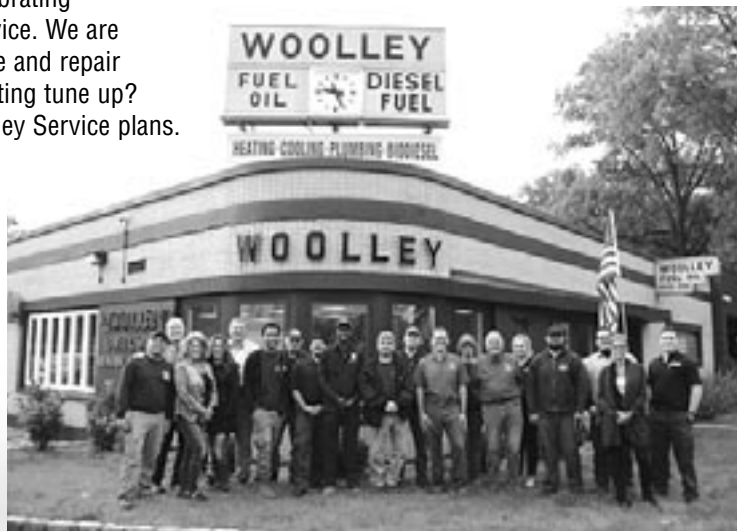
We are a group of veterans and volunteers dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live better lives. Our mission is to identify veterans and connect them with resources and programs designed to meet their unique set of needs. Help us save Vets! We are always looking for volunteers, with various skills, to join the team. If you are a veteran or family member that is in need of assistance; or are interested in volunteering, would like us to speak at your event, or contribute to our mission, call 973-332-1556 or email [NJVN1775@gmail.com](mailto:NJVN1775@gmail.com). To learn more visit [njvn.org](http://njvn.org).



(above) Michael D Boll, NJVN President, with Dina and Tom Duffy who lost their son Tom Duffy, a Marine Corporal and Afghanistan War veteran. Courtesy photos

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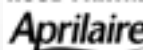
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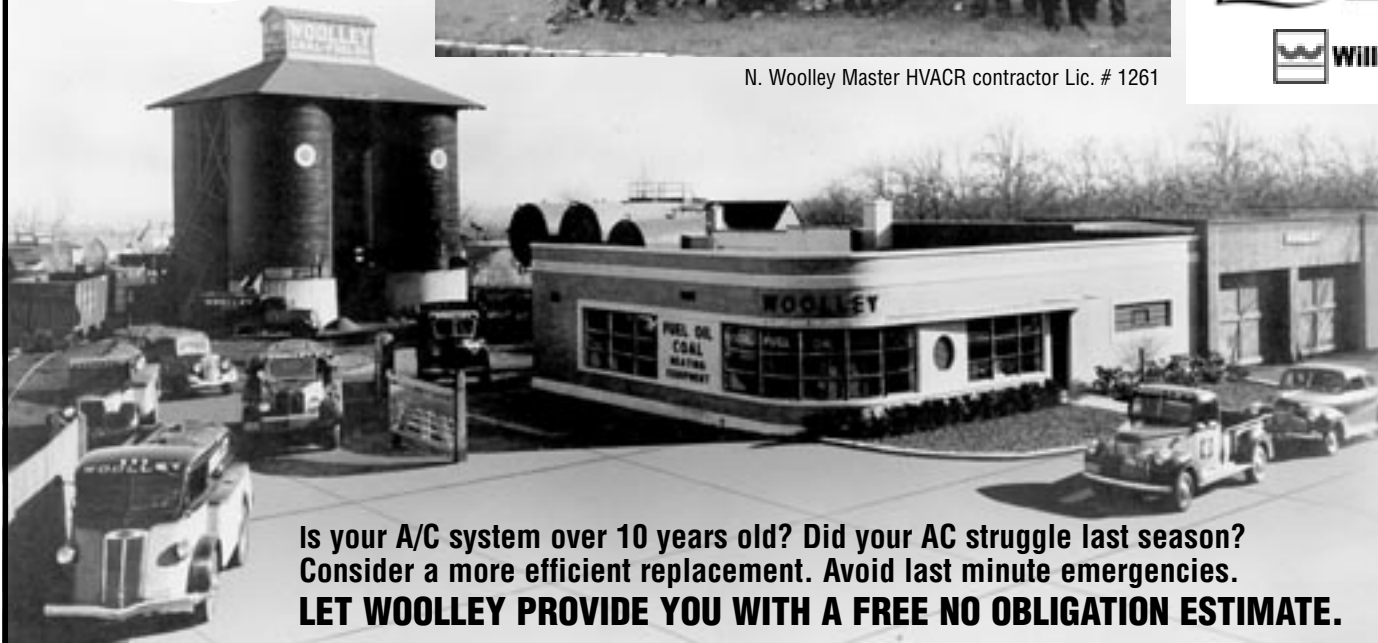
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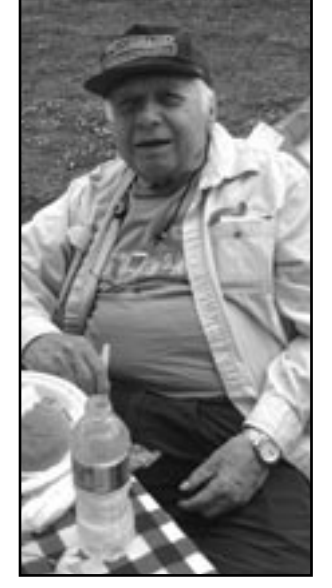
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# KENILWORTH SENIORS PICNIC

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On May 30th, Kenilworth seniors aged 60 years and older were treated to a boardwalk style picnic. Seniors enjoyed beautiful weather at DiMario

Park, along with a fun filled afternoon which featured boardwalk style food, games, music, gift giveaways and more.



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## KENILWORTH SENIOR CLUB NEWS

The Kenilworth Senior Club held their final meeting before summer break on June 5. Our June speaker was retiring chief Fred Soos Jr. There are no meetings in July and August.

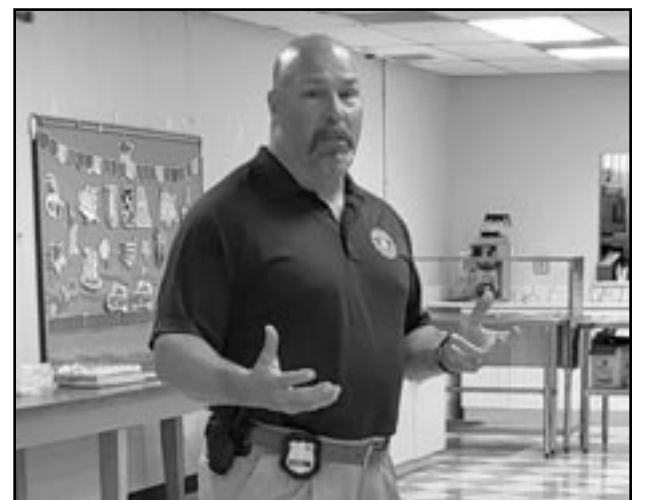
Our next meeting in the fall on the first Wednesday of the month will be on September 4th at 1 p.m.

Starting our September meeting we are planning to play Bingo for prizes and cash. After our meeting, all members are welcome.

This year marks our 60th anniversary in December and we are planning a celebration dinner with a tentative date of December 14th dinner, DJ and 50/50. More information to follow as plans for this event are confirmed.

The Senior Citizens club is always taking on new memberships and volunteers to help with our county lunch programs on Monday, Wednesday,

and Fridays. The phone for the senior club number is 908-272-7743.



(above) Police Chief Fred Soos Jr. was the guest speaker.

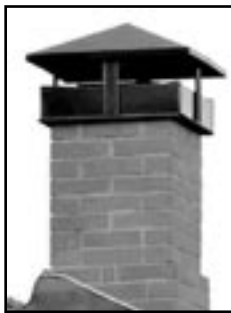
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**BUS TRIP TO ATLANTIC CITY CASINO - JULY 27**

The Kenilworth Historical Society will host a bus trip to the Tropicana Casino and Resort in Atlantic City on Sat., July 27, 2024.

The trip will depart Kenilworth (St. Theresa School parking lot) at 8 a.m. and return to Kenilworth at approximately 6:30 p.m. Cost of \$59 includes comfortable motor coach transportation, an approximate 6-hour visit to the casino and \$10 in free slot play. There will be a 50/50 raffle and complimentary door prizes on the bus.

The Tropicana premier casino and resort is a 24-hour gaming destination located on the acclaimed Atlantic City beach and boardwalk. With more than 3,000 slot machines and some 132 table games, plus 30 popular restaurants and eateries, 30 shops, 20 bars and lounges, four pools, an IMAX Theatre, multiple spas and the charming Old Havana ambience of its enclosed mall, "The Quarter," the Tropicana is consistently



rated as a "Must-See Attraction" in Atlantic City.

For further information and reservations, please call 908-709-0434. As space is limited, reservations and payment should be made by July 13. Gift certificates for the trip are also available for purchase.

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

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


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Mark has won honors including Entertainer of the Year and Boston Music award nominations. He has shared the stage with greats like Chaka Khan, James Brown, The Four Tops, John-Lee Hooker, Pieces of a Dream, Howard Hewitt, Phil Driscoll, Phil Keaggy, Roger Humphries, and many others. Mark has played in many Broadway productions as well as music directing off-Broadway productions in NYC.

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# DAVID BREARLEY HIGH SCHOOL 2024 VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

## Kenilworth Public Schools

Academic achievements, a deep commitment to community service and leadership skills are a few qualities David Brearley High School students Nand Shah and Dennis Shestak share. These qualities, along with an admirable work ethic, have earned the two seniors the honor of being the school's Class of 2024 valedictorian and salutatorian.

Shah, named valedictorian after recording the highest GPA in his graduating class, said he is thrilled to receive this title, and is grateful for the support of his family, friends, and teachers throughout his high school education.

"The most important thing students can do while in school is to work hard," said Shah. "Finish your assignments and find time to study. Realize what your goal is and continue to work towards it; don't let anything prevent you from doing this."

Shah has participated in Brearley's Scholars Academy, earned high honor roll and academic achievement awards and is a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. He also is the president of the student council, co-editor of the school's newspaper Bear Print, a member of the marching band, and founder and captain of the Robotics Club where he created a robotics student scholarship. Shah has served on the principal advisory council and as a liaison for the board

of education.

Shah also spends time helping others. He volunteers as a peer tutor and is a member of Bears that Care, a community-focused volunteer group.

Shah is an inspiration to his younger brother, Ved Shah, who earned the highest GPA in eighth grade and is recognized as David Brearley Middle School's top student this year.

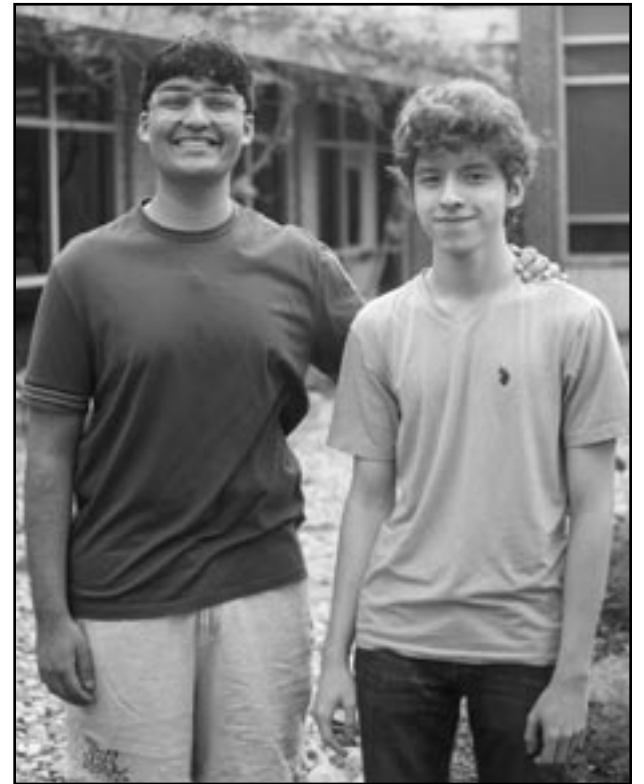
After graduation, Shah plans to attend Mercer University and study to become a mechanical engineer.

Shestak, whose second-highest GPA earned him the title of salutatorian, is also a member of Scholars Academy and the National Honor Society. He has continuously earned high honor roll and ABC awards and is an inspiration to his peers.

"My advice to those entering high school is to step outside of your comfort zone and reach out to others," said Shestak. "Talking to others expands your knowledge. By helping them, you are learning more, too."

Shestak is the lead electrical engineer for the Robotics Club, a band member, and a participant of the senior quartet. Outside of school, he has worked in the quality control department at a local medical lab.

Shestak plans to attend the New Jersey Institute of Technology and study to become an electrical engineer.



(above l-r) David Brearley High School valedictorian Nand Shah, and salutatorian Dennis Shestak both plan to study engineering in college.

Courtesy photo

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## URGENT NEED FOR ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

### Child Focus

The latest class of CASA volunteers were sworn in to advocate for youth in foster care on June 11, 2024.

Union County Superior Court Judge Rosalba Comas presided over the swearing-in of the newly trained volunteers, and each can now be assigned to work with children living in foster care through no fault of their own, advocating for their best interests and ensuring their needs are met while in the child welfare system.

The nonprofit organization Child Focus operates CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, and its goal is to provide a CASA volunteer for each of the more than 250 child-victims in Union County foster care. Currently, just 30 percent of these vulnerable infants, children, and teens have the continuity and support of a CASA volunteer serving as extra eyes and ears for judges hearing their cases. The need is critical for additional volunteers to step up and serve waiting children.

“We are proud to welcome this new group of volunteers to the CASA family,” said Erica Fischer-Kaslander, Executive Director of Child Focus. “These individuals have taken concrete action to make a difference in the lives of children who have experienced immense trauma, having been removed from home through no fault of their own, often due to abuse or neglect. We look forward to working with our new advocates as they serve these vulnerable youth and urge more community members to follow their example by volunteering to support children in need.”

Judge Comas expressed her gratitude for the CASA program and the volunteers’ commitment to the children they serve. “If I really want to know what’s happening with a child I listen to the CASA worker, because they are 100% in tune with everything that the child needs, and everything that’s happening in the child’s life,” she shared. “Their job is to look out for the kids, represent the children’s interest, and make sure that all of their needs are being addressed. It’s not just whether they need clothes or whether they need toys, it’s the bond. It’s what they need emotionally, it’s someone they can count on.”

Since caseworkers, attorneys, and foster homes are ever-changing, the CASA volunteer – or advocate – is a much-needed constant in a child’s

life, committing to work with the child until they reach permanency in a stable home and the case closes. Children assigned a CASA volunteer are more likely to receive services, spend less time in the foster system, and experience significantly better outcomes than those without an advocate.

### BECOMING A CASA - TRAINING SCHEDULED IN JULY

Becoming a CASA requires no special skills or background in child welfare. Child Focus provides thorough training on the ins and outs of advocating for abused and neglected children, and volunteers are fully supported by CASA program staff. Volunteers visit the children at least monthly and get to know the people in the child’s life, such as foster parents, biological parents, teachers, therapists, and attorneys in order to make unbiased recommendations to the family court judge that support the child’s best interests.

The first step to becoming an advocate is to attend an information session. Upcoming sessions will be held Monday, July 8 at 5:30 p.m. at the Elizabeth Public Library (Elmora Branch),

740 W Grand St, Elizabeth, NJ 07202; Thursday, July 11 at 5:30 p.m. at the Rahway Public Library, 2 City Hall Plaza in Rahway; Thursday July 25 at 5:30 p.m. at the Union County Colleen Fraser Building, 300 North Avenue E. in Westfield; or Monday July 1 at 10 a.m., Monday July 15 at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday July 24 at 12 p.m., and Wednesday July 31 at 5:30 p.m. at the Wayne Child Focus office, 415 Hamburg Turnpike, Suite D2. Register: [casapassaicunion.org/info-session](https://casapassaicunion.org/info-session).

### ABOUT CHILD FOCUS:

Child Focus prioritizes the needs and well-being of infants, children and teens impacted by, or at risk of, abuse or neglect by amplifying their voices and working toward lasting, permanent solutions that address their unique situations and provide support needed to thrive. This critical work is accomplished through three distinct but complementary programs: CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, NJ Safe Babies Court Team, and the Open Door Store. For more information about Child Focus, visit [childfocusnj.org](https://childfocusnj.org).



(above) The latest class of CASA volunteers were sworn in to advocate for youth in foster care on June 11, 2024. To learn more about becoming an advocate, info sessions are scheduled for July.

For more information visit: [casapassaicunion.org/info-session](https://casapassaicunion.org/info-session)

Courtesy photo

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# DISCOVERING KENILWORTH'S "MODEL HOMES," PART 7

The largest single development of homes in Kenilworth took place during 1940-1942.

The town was still dealing with the fallout of the Great Depression. Hundreds of properties were in arrears in tax payments. This put an enormous strain on the local government and board of education. In the late 1930s over three hundred lots across from the Harding School were sold by the Borough in a tax sale to the developer Blue Ridge Manor Co. for \$35,000. The tract of land ran from S. 17th St. west to what was S. 4th St. or the Shady Ln. area today. This sale was an enormous boost to the local government treasury. As a point of reference, the entire school budget for 1939 was \$31,400. As homes were built and sold, property taxes began to be paid on lots that previously were contributing nothing.

There were six distinct styles of Cape Cod

homes on lots averaging 50 ft. by 100 ft. Depending on the style, they had three, four, or five rooms plus a bathroom. The basic four-room model with a lower attic ridge beam, coal furnace, and no garage was initially priced at \$2,600. They came with wooden framed storm windows and framed window screens. Upgrades could be purchased for an additional sum: oil burner, \$60; higher attic ridge beam, \$60; one car garage, \$125; small, single-window attic dormer, \$75. My parents purchased a five-room home on a larger corner lot at 47 Arbor St. for \$3,250. Upgrades included a higher ridge beam and two single-windowed attic dormers so a bedroom or two could be added in the future.

The development was officially Blue Ridge Manor. But residents dubbed it "Boom Town" after the 1940 movie of the same name. The late Luciano "Old Louie" Vitale (1880-1972) helped

excavate many of the cellars. He noted (1969) that some mischievous person painted the words "Boom Town" in large letters on the company's billboard. Construction slowed a bit when WWII broke out as building materials were not always readily available.

Blue Ridge Manor was a complete break from the past as to the laying out of streets. Until this time the town's streets were in a criss-cross, right angle pattern. But suburban planning with curving and winding streets was being introduced to Kenilworth for the first time.

Residents referred to them as "the spaghetti streets." Some visitors had a hard time finding their way out of Blue Ridge Manor. That is not as prevalent now.

Zillow.com publicly posted sales from earlier this year of two Roosevelt Ln. Cape Cods. Each had a third bedroom and a second bath and sold for the same price: \$485,000. A large percentage of the homes have been extensively remodeled and enormously expanded so that they no longer resemble the originals erected more than 80 years ago.

Watch for Blue Ridge Manor #2 in the next issue of this newspaper. Learn why it was nicknamed "Mudville."

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) 365 Roosevelt Ln. sold 2024: \$485,000

Source: Zillow.com



(above) 47 Arbor St. (now), 2024

Source: Google.com



(above) 388 Coolidge Dr., 1940: \$2,600


Source: Connie Jakub



(above) 47 Arbor St. (then), 1941: \$3,250

Source: Historic Signs

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# 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 160,000 newspapers to every home and business in 24 towns. You can advertise in any number of towns. Ads start at \$60.

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We print flyers and menus, full color, two sided, on coated stock for only \$45 per thousand.

## DIRECT MAIL

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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.

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

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<b>Berkeley Heights</b> COMMUNITY NEWS Qty: 4,700 Zip: 07922	<b>THE CHATHAMS</b> NJ Qty: 7,500 Zip: 07928	<b>Clark Monthly</b> Qty: 6,700 Zip: 07066	<b>CRANFORD MONTHLY</b> NJ Qty: 9,900 Zip: 07016	<b>Elmhurst Hills</b> ELIZABETH, NJ Qty: 5,400 Zip: 07208 <small>Section of Elizabeth, NJ</small>	<b>Fanwood Post</b> NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07023
<b>Florham Park Press</b> NJ Qty: 5,500 Zip: 07932	<b>Garwood Times</b> NJ Qty: 2,500 Zip: 07027	<b>Green Brook</b> NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 08812	<b>BUSINESS • LIFE KENILWORTH</b> NJ Qty: 3,500 Zip: 07033	<b>NJ LIFE in LINDEN</b> Qty: 17,900 Zip: 07036	<b>Long Hill LEADER</b> NJ Qty: 3,500 Zips: 07933, 07946, 07980
<b>MADISON MONTHLY</b> NJ Qty: 6,300 Zip: 07940	<b>MOUNTAINSIDE VIEW</b> NJ Qty: 2,900 Zip: 07092	<b>New Providence NEWS</b> NJ Qty: 5,100 Zip: 07974	<b>OUR TOWN Rahway, NJ</b> Qty: 13,000 Zip: 07065	<b>ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY</b> Qty: 5,600 Zip: 07204	<b>Scotch Plains NJ</b> WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY Qty: 9,400 Zip: 07076
<b>Short Hills MILLBURN MONTHLY</b> NJ Qty: 8,200 Zips: 07041, 07078	<b>Summit &amp; Times</b> NJ Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	<b>Spirit of UNION</b> NJ Qty: 6,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	<b>WARREN MONTHLY</b> NJ Qty: 6,200 Zip: 07059	<b>Watchung Post</b> NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	<b>Westfield MONTHLY</b> NJ Qty: 11,800 Zip: 07090

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

### 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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# KENILWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY JULY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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

The Kenilworth Public Library invites children ages two to twelve years old to join the 2024 'Adventure Begins At Your Library' Summer Reading Club. Registration is ongoing. The summer reading club concludes on Friday, August 16th. The first 200 children who register will receive a reading club bag containing many special items.

## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS AND EVENTS: WEEKLY PROGRAMS:

### Bingo For Children

Mondays at 6:30pm – 7:00pm  
July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

Bingo games for children ages 3 & up

### Lap Sit

Tuesdays at 10:30am – 10:50am  
July 2, 9, 23 & 30

Interactive stories and songs for ages 0 – 2 years old

### PJ Story Time

Tuesdays at 6:30pm – 7:00pm  
July 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

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 at 10:30am – 10:50am  
July 3, 10 & 24

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

### Fun Friday Crafts

Friday at 3:30pm – 4:00pm  
July 5, 12, 19 & 26

Ages: 4 – 9

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

## JULY SPECIAL EVENTS

Registration is required for all special events. Kenilworth residents may register one week prior to each event. Out of town residents may register two days prior to each event, space permitting. To register: call the library at 908-276-2451 or visit 548 Boulevard.

### Eyes of The Wild Animal Program at The Kenilworth Public Library

Thursday, July 11 at 7:00pm – 8:00pm.

Ages: 4 – adult

Participants will be educated and entertained as they learn about and view up close exotic animals. This program is recommended for ages 4 – adult.

### Boogie Woogie Babies

10:30am – 11:00am on Tuesday, July 16

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

### Yoga Story Time

10:30am – 11:00am on Wednesday, July 17

Join us for stories and yoga poses for the youngest listeners and their caregiver. This program will be presented by certified yoga instructor Gina Folgar for ages: 2 - 5.

### Wondergy: Cool Science

7:00pm – 8:00pm on Thursday, July 18

Participants will explore interactive science experiments which include the use liquid nitrogen - along with cream, milk, and sugar - to serve up the freshest ice cream you've ever tasted! This program is recommended for ages 4 – adult. Don't miss this educational program which includes a delicious treat.

### Read To A Dog

4:00pm - 5:00pm on Tuesday, July 23

For early beginning readers and those who are learning to read Young, reluctant, or struggling



(above, l-r) Read To A Dog program with Petey; Currier's Magical Mania Juggling & Comedy Show featuring Ben Lipman

readers are encouraged to register for this program and read aloud for 15 minutes with certified therapy dog, Petey. Children will learn to associate reading with being with this furry, non-judgmental listener and begin to view reading in a positive way. Over time, the child's reading ability and confidence can improve because they are practicing their skills. Registration is required. Readers may register for a 15-minute visit. Registration begins one week prior to this program.

### Currier's Magical Mania Comedy Magic Show

Thursday, July 25 at 7:00pm – 8:00pm

Ages: 4 – adult

Join us for this exciting interactive event featuring the amazing juggling and magic of Ben Lipman.

### Good Tyme String Band

10:30am – 11:00am on Wednesday, July 25

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

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### Paper Pals

Tuesday, July 2 & 16 at 2-4pm and Monday, July 8 at 6:00pm – 7:45pm

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

### "Yarnies"

Thursdays, July 11 & 18 at 2-4pm and Thursday, July 25 at 6:00pm – 7:45pm.

You don't need any crafting experience to enjoy these creative explorations. Feel free to bring a project to work on. Watch demonstrations of knitting, crocheting and weaving.

### "Spin - A - Yarn"

Tuesday, July 30 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.



(above) Good Tyme String Band



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# #9

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TRANSACTION SIDES  
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# #16

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NATIONALLY 2019-23

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