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## **AN OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS AT THE NITSCHKE HOUSE**

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During a Sunday, Dec. 8 (12-4 p.m.), Holiday Celebration Featuring "An Old-Fashioned Christmas" at the Oswald J. Nitschke House (49 S. 21 Street), visitors will have an opportunity to meet and take photos with Santa from Victorian times, tour the c. 1880 home authentically decorated for the holiday, view exhibits, enjoy favorite holiday tunes sung by the Christmas Matters Holiday Carolers (dressed in Dickensstyle attire) and visit the site's Christkindlmarkt featuring handcrafted items, baked goods and other holiday treats. Tours will be offered in English and Spanish. The Kenilworth Education Association PEP Committee is generously sponsoring the carolers' performance.

Admission to the Dec. 8 event is free. Visitors are invited to bring, for the Nitschke House Cultural Heritage Tree, an ornament labeled with their family name and heritage.

Shown here from last year's holiday celebration are Victorian Santa with the Christmas Matters Carolers, Santa with some of the many children who visited the Nitschke House during the event and volunteers at the annual multicultural Christkindlmarkt.



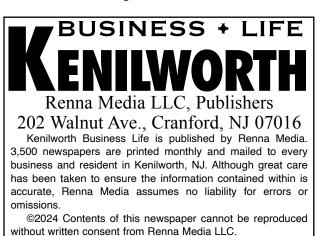


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ADVERTISING Joe Renna: 908-447-1295 joerenna@rennamedia.com



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## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT NJ BLOOD SERVICES**

of New York Blood Center, which provides blood for local patients, is looking for a few good volunteers. The blood drive volunteer is an integral member of our team whose tasks include assisting donors with registration and/or at the refreshment area. No medical background necessary. Volunteers should be outgoing to provide friendly customer service, be able to perform tasks as needed, must provide proof of

New Jersey Blood Services (NJBS), a division COVID Vaccination prior to volunteering and must have transportation. All training is provided including additional precautions for the safety of our team and blood donors. For additional information call or text Sharon Zetts, Manager, NJBS Volunteer Services at 732-850-8906, Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

> To apply online as a blood drive volunteer, please go to:

volgistics.com/appform/2127944197

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### SENIOR CITIZENS 60TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Kenilworth Senior Citizens Club 60th Anniversary Gala will be held at The Westwood in Garwood, NJ on December 12, 2024, from 12-4 p.m. For tickets or information call 908-208-4916 or 908-902-8123. Tickets must be purchased no later than Nov. 29, 2024. Members \$35.00, non-members \$40.00. A sit-down luncheon includes salad, pasta, choice of 3 entrees and desert. There will also be soda, wine, a DJ for music, games, door prizes, and more!

### Kenilworth Senior Citizens Club 60TH ANNIVERSARY GALA at THE WESTWOOD IN GARWOOD

438 N. Ave Garwood

**DECEMBER 12, 2024** 

12:00-4:00 PM For tickets or information call 908-208-4916 or 908-902-8123 Tickets must be purchased no later than 11/29/2024 Event partially funded by the generosity of the Errington Fund

MEMBERS \$35.00 NON-MEMBERS\$40.00

SIT DOWN LUNCHEON INCLUDES SALAD, PASTA CHOICE OF 3 ENTRÉES AND DESSERT, SODA, WINE, DJ,



## **LIBRARY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

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

### WEEKLY PROGRAMS:

Bingo For Children Mondays at 6:30pm – 7:00pm December 2, 9 & 16 Bingo games for children ages 3 & up Lap Sit

Tuesdays at 10:30am – 10:50am December 3 & 17 Interactive stories and songs for ages 0 – 2 years old **PJ Story Time** 

Tuesdays at 6:30pm – 7:00pm December 3, 10 & 17 Children are welcome to attend this story time

program dressed in their pajamas and bring along a favorite stuffed animal for ages 3 & up.

#### CRAFTS

Fridays on December 6 & 20 at 3:30pm - 4:00pm Registration is required for each individual craft. Ages; 4 - 9

### DECEMBER 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.

#### **Boogie Woogie Babies**

10:30am – 11:00am on Tuesday, December 10 Interactive musical program will be presented by Tiffany Taylor for ages: 0- 4 REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Yoga Story Time

10:30am - 11:00am on Wednesday, December 11 Join us for stories and yoga poses for the youngest listeners and their caregiver. Ages: 2 - 5

#### Read To A Dog

Tuesday, December 17 at 4:00pm – 5:00pm For early beginning readers and those who are learning to read. Young, reluctant, or struggling 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. **Good Tyme String Band** Wednesday, December 18 at 10:30am – 11:00am All ages are welcome to attend and enjoy foot tapping

### knee slapping banjo music. KENILWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY ADULT PROGRAMS

**ESL CONVERSATION FOR ADULTS** Tuesdays - December 3, 10 & 17 at 5:30pm - 6:30pm Saturdays – December 7 & 21 at 10:30am - 12:00pm Want to practice or learn more English? We will be hosting a free program for adults ages 18 & over. For more information, please call Krissantonia at 973-309-6971. **Ready To Hatch** A Workshop For Expectant Mothers Saturday, December 14 at 10:30am - 11:00am This program is designed to empower expectant mothers as their babies first and most

important teacher and provide information about early literacy programs offered here at the library.







## **RENNA MEDIA NEWSPAPERS RATE SHEET**



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

## **DISCOVERING KENILWORTH'S "MODEL HOMES," PART 11**

The last major tract of homes built in Kenilworth is the Wood's Edge section of town at the far west end of the Boulevard consisting of Dorset and Epping drives and a one-block strip of the Boulevard between those two streets. This 11-acre tract is made up of 51 homes erected in 1959 and 1960, most of which are ground-entry split levels and a few colonials.

Wood's Edge almost never occurred. The land was originally part of a 146-acre parcel west of N. 8th St. The first 35 acres became the Kensington Homes development, bult 1953-54.

In the early 1950s there was an effort to rezone the 46 acres for Garden apartments. A public referendum overwhelmingly defeated the apartments idea. The land also was eyed as a site for a new Regional High School, which never came to fruition at that location.

In 1956 the Butts brothers, also known as G&H Construction, acquired the 11 acres and announced plans to build homes in what they were calling Kensington Homes #2. Residents in the first Kensington Homes development next door, built in 1953-54, were in an uproar fearing more houses would bring flooding to their area from the nearby Rahway River.

Word went out that the developer would build instead a large swim club on the site which heightened Kensington #1 homeowners' fears even more. The Borough Council paused and the project and the developers filed a superior court lawsuit to compel local officials to approve their housing plan. The county court ruled in the developers' favor. The homes eventually were by Major Builders, Inc. of Kenilworth, which at one point had the same business address as G&H Construction at 25 No. Michigan Ave.

When the homes were built, the price ranged from \$18,990 to \$20,990. Among the first residents were Herman and Helen Forman. If the Forman name sounds familiar, it is likely because one of their children grew up to be Dr. Jerome Forman, a well-known local dentist. He reported that his childhood was a model home for the development. Some years go before her passing Helen stated, "My husband and I read an ad in the Star Ledger newspaper about new homes at Woods Edge in Kenilworth. We came and looked. The model was on the Boulevard. We fell in love with it! The houses like ours were going for \$20,490 at the time. We were very lucky when we moved here in 1959. The streets were paved and utilities were complete. It was a simply delightful neighborhood, so good for the children. They rode their bicycles, played in the woods, and in the wintertime skated on the little pond across the street on the Shade Tree Commission property.

Her son, Dr. Forman also commented at the time. He recalled, "The neighborhood was safe, warm, and inviting, and at any time of the day there would be kids playing on its streets or at each other's homes."

The Forman family sold their home some years ago. According to Zillow.com, it sold for \$549,000 this past October. That's an increase of about 2,700 percent of its original 1959 price.

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, l-r) Mayor Gregg David with Dr. Jerome Forman at dedication of his new dental office, 2003

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(above) Model home at 1 Epping Dr. bought for \$20,490 in 1959; sold for \$549,000 2024.



(above) Two styles of home designs.





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