

BUSINESS + LIFE

KENILWORTH LIFE

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SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB 60TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

The Kenilworth Senior citizens club held a 60th anniversary gala at Westwood in Garwood on Thursday December 12, 2024. The event was a success with over 60 in attendance.

The day started with the swearing in by Mayor Linda Karlovich of the incoming officers. President Lillian Falcetano, Vice President Joan Hollar, Secretary Robert Biener, Treasurer Paulette Drogon.

Following the pledge of allegiance and God Bless America, Father Rizzo from St Theresa Church said a prayer to start off the festivities. DJ Mel kept the dance floor busy with games and dancing. Over 40 door prizes were given away along with a 50/50 and a bonus basket to the 2nd place winner. Opacity funeral home donated a 60th favor for all in attendance and Mastapeter gave a basket for an additional 50/50 prize.

The tables were decorated beautifully with a centerpiece donation from Artie Russo of Kenilworth Garden center in honor of his mother Mary Russo who was a long-time member of the club.

We would also like to thank our generous donors, Dunkin donuts, Errington fund, Kenilworth Diner, Kenilworth Garden center, Masterpeter Funeral home, Michigan Deli, Opacity Funeral Home, UNICO Kenilworth chapter and various anonymous donors.

A special thank you to Shirley Maxwell our senior director and Annette Soos for their help in making this a success. They say it takes a village, and this small village came together for a great celebration. The committee would like to thank all involved and those who came out to

make this celebration a success. A special thank you to our past president Trudi Neuhauser who came from far south with the assistance of her grandson to make this event. And it goes without saying thank you to our police chief Paul Campanella who supports all events in town.



Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Kenilworth Life page on facebook.com.

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HICKORY TREE CHORUS WINTER SING-ALONG

Stay warm this winter by putting some music in your life in 2025! Join the Hickory Tree Chorus for a Winter Sing-Along, which will include a meet-and-greet, warm-ups and, of course, some wonderful singing. Dates are January 8 and 15, 2025, from 6:45 to 9:30 p.m. at The Shrine of St Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ. The chorus sings a variety of music, including old-fashioned love songs, Broadway, Disney, Beatles, and more, in a fun, supportive community. Come sing with us and share the joy of music together! Stay for friendship and fun!

And the event is free!

Hickory Tree is an award-winning women's chorus singing four-part a cappella harmony in the barbershop style. We are passionate about music, performance, fun and friendship. We believe every voice counts and encourage women singers of all ages, colors, ethnicities, and orientations to visit us and share our joy of music.

Please contact the Chorus for the Winter Sing-Along by email at info@hickorytreechorus.org. Find more information at hickorytreechorus.org.



(above) The Hickory Tree award-winning women's chorus is hosting free events on January 8 and 15, 2025, from 6:45 to 9:30 p.m. at The Shrine of St Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ.

Courtesy photo

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WHAT, WHERE, WHEN IN OLD KENILWORTH

KENILWORTH'S LAST FARM BOY – PART 1

The last vast open area commercially farmed in Kenilworth was in the late 1940s. The farm itself used a large portion of land along the eastbound lane of Galloping Hill Road. It consisted of more than 100 acres. At the end of the decade the tract was sold by the Borough. Since then, the enormous site has hosted a number of major pharmaceutical corporations – presently Merck.

Back in 1943, Bob Allcroft was a young, athletic, 13-year-old seventh grader at Harding School. This past spring, this then 93-year-old California resident shared his Kenilworth farm boy days with me.

“My dad and mom – Jim and Cecile – had nine children. We lived in Kenilworth in the 1930s and 1940s. My older brothers, Jim and Roger, were off fighting in WWII. Still at home with me at 572 Fairfield Ave. were my parents; my younger brother Richard; and my sisters Meriam, nicknamed Polly; Joan; and Gladys Marie, nicknamed Tucky.

“Among the girls I knew at Harding School was Louise Anderson. Her dad, Anthony Anderson, had a farm down along Galloping Hill Rd. Through her I became aware that her father was looking for farm hand help. With seven people still living at home, a few dollars here and there would help my folks with running a household and give me some very modest spending money – a little feeling of financial independence for a young teenager.



(above) Industrial building bottom right corner is site of today's Kenilworth Inn Hotel. Two square areas at center are farm land, part of Merck site today.

Photo: Ray Scheuerer, 1949

“I hiked over from our house to meet Mr. Anderson. He said to me, ‘Well, you look strong enough and tall enough, and are probably smart enough not to get hurt on the job. He then asked me, ‘And just how old are you did you say?’”

“Without hesitation I piped up and proudly blurted out, ‘I’m 13, Mr. Anderson!’” He looked at me, smiled and said, ‘You’re hired young feller. Gonna pay you twenty-five cents an hour and that’s it. Want the job?’ I didn’t know exactly for what kind of farm work, but I answered, ‘Yes, Mr. Anderson, I want to work.’”

“The farm was a good mile away as-the-crow-flies from our Fairfield Ave. house. It was mostly fields. I walked down Fairfield Ave. past the Canteen Tavern on the corner of Michigan Ave.

and kept going down Fairfield and crossed the Rahway Valley Railroad tracks on Market St. right past the Lock Joint Pipe Co. Went through some fields. Then I crossed some more railroad tracks. I think the Lehigh Valley tracks. There was lots of wide-open area after that. Crossed I think two creeks and picked and ate blackberries on the way to the farm. There were lots of blackberries. There was no Garden State Parkway back then so my route was unobstructed. Twenty-five minutes did the trick. If I hustled, did it in 20.”

Next issue to feature Part 2. Watch for it. 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.

THE COLORS AROUND US ART EXHIBIT

The Gallery-on-the-Boulevard will present “The Colors Around Us” exhibiting the work of photographer Joseph Manzella, a resident of Cranford, NJ. The show will open in January 2025 and remain through April. The Gallery is located in the Kenilworth Public Library, 548 Boulevard, Kenilworth.

Manzella has had a long and varied career in photography, illustration, painting, computer graphics and design which he merged to create compelling digital art and photography. Vibrant color is a consistent theme and feature in all his work, which helps him achieve a “painting like” quality.

He has received 3 First Place Awards from Union County Art Exhibits, and 2 First Place

Awards with New Jersey Senior Citizen Art Show in the Digital Category. His images have been on display with the Westfield Art Association and the Artist Framer in Cranford.

Manzella states that “I always felt a need to preserve what I see, whether in the ‘real world’ or in my mind’s eye so that I can experience and enjoy it later. This is what I strive for in the art and photography that I create and what I can, hopefully, offer to people who see and experience it.” All artwork is available for purchase by contacting the artist.

The exhibit is free and open to the public during regular library hours.

For more information call 908-276-2451.



(above) Golden Sunset at Leeds



(above) Cranford Hotel

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OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 23, 2025

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Sunday, January 26, 2025

11:00 pm - 1:30 pm

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AN UNUSUAL GOOSE REHABBED AND RELEASED

The Raptor Trust

The Brant goose, with its compact size and striking black-and-white plumage, is a remarkable bird. Adapted to drink saltwater, these geese embark on long migratory journeys from their Arctic breeding grounds to coastal winter habitats. Look for them in estuaries, mudflats, and saltmarshes, where they thrive throughout the winter months.

Recently, The Raptor Trust treated a Brant goose (Admit #21-4190) found in Long Valley with wounds from a predator attack. After intensive care, including suturing lacerations, treating an eye injury and parasites, this resilient bird was successfully released at Sandy Hook on November 2nd.

ABOUT THE RAPTOR TRUST

The Raptor Trust is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located at 1390 White Bridge Rd., Millington, NJ. They provide free care and assistance to injured, sick, or orphaned wild birds. They offer educational programs to the public about wild birds, especially birds of prey. They strive to provide a human example for others. For more information about upcoming events, to make a donation, and volunteer opportunities visit info@theraptortrust.org. To report an injured wild bird call 908-647-2353.



(above) We're thrilled to see this Brant goose take to the skies (or water) once more! It was a charming patient.

Photo by The Raptor Trust

SPIRITUAL? CURIOUS? SEEKING?

Do you consider yourself spiritual? Are you curious about what people are talking about when they speak of having faith or being spiritual? Are you seeking peace of mind, of heart of soul?

Come and see for yourself. Come and explore the Christian faith. Come and discuss with other seekers what is on your mind, what you cannot talk about except with other seekers. Come to an Alpha gathering.

Alpha is for everybody that wants to discuss seeking answers to life's big questions. Why are we here? Is this all there is to life? Where are we going? How do I attain peace of mind, heart, and soul? Whether you are young or old, have faith or are atheist or agnostic, Alpha provides a safe environment for exploring our big questions about life.

We begin by sharing a meal together and

getting to know each other. We watch a video together then break into small groups for uninhibited discussion about what is on our minds.

The series runs for 12 weeks on Monday nights beginning at 7:30 p.m. and ending at 9:00 p.m. It will begin February 3rd, 2025, and end May 12th, 2025. Three of the sessions are live in person and the remainder are on Zoom. There is no cost to participate. You will need a desire for frank discussion, a willingness to participate and a commitment to attend. You will also need a computer or smartphone capable of Zoom sessions.

The live in person sessions will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 1571 S. Martine Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

To register go onto IHMParish.net. If you have any questions, please call 908-889-2100.



Alpha Winter/Spring 2025 13-week program returns

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More details available at www.ihmparish.net/alpha



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MERCY HOUSE TOY DRIVE

St. Theresa School in Kenilworth and the National Junior Honor Society sponsored a toy collection for the Mercy House which serves the needs of the community in the Archdiocese of Newark.

The families were extremely generous and over 400 toys were collected from blocks to teddy bears. These toys were distributed to the Mercy House Christmas Toy Giveaway in Elizabeth, Newark and Jersey City.

Courtesy photo



(above, l-r) 8th grade National Junior Honor Society, Kneeling, Julia Rodriguez, Jamie Velasquez-Fonseca, and Milania Lopez. Standing Neha Pakikkal, Valerie Ayers, Robert Salgueiro, Ava Gonzalez, Isabella Heese, Dario Valdez and Mateo Cruz

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF NIGHT SKY GAZING

Amateur Astronomers, Inc (AAI) of Cranford, NJ celebrated their 75th Anniversary on Sunday, November 17, 2024, at The Westwood Caterers of Garwood, NJ. In attendance were 53 past and current members who range from teenagers to seniors.

AAI has always interested anyone who loves looking and learning about the night sky. Housed in the William Miller Sperry Observatory on the Union College campus in Cranford, the observatory is open to the public every Friday night with their twin domes looking at the heavens. One of the domes houses a 24-inch reflector and the other dome houses a refractor, which was constructed by club members. Public lectures start at 8:30 p.m. on Fridays, they are on current topics in Astronomy.

Youth lectures are presented by the club at 7:00 p.m. to preregistered scout groups to help them earn their patches in science. If you are interested in preregistering a scout group, please contact info@asterism.org.

The club also celebrates celestial events such as eclipses by opening the Observatory and having numerous telescopes outside the building. For more information about AAI email, membership@asterism.org or visit asterism.org.

ASTRONOMY DAY - MAY 17, 2025

Amateur Astronomers, Inc. along with the North Jersey Astronomical Group, two amateur astronomy clubs located in New Jersey, are once again holding their annual Astronomy Day on Saturday, May 17, 2025. The event will be held in 2 locations: Trailside Nature & Science Center in Mountainside in the afternoon and at William Miller Sperry Observatory on the campus of Union College in Cranford in the evening. The theme is "Solar Max, Unlocking the Secrets of the Sun." This is a family friendly event that focuses on learning about our Sun and its impact on us, and also about astronomy and related sciences in a fun and easy to understand atmosphere. This event appeals to both children and adults. The event is free and open to the public and does not require preregistration. So, mark your calendars for Saturday, May 17, 2025, and come out to learn more about the Sun and our universe!



(above) AAI has always interested anyone who loves learning about the night sky. Housed in the William Miller Sperry Observatory on the Union College campus in Cranford, the observatory is open to the public every Friday nights. One of the domes houses a 24-inch reflector and the other dome houses a refractor. Public lectures start at 8:30 p.m. on Fridays, on current topics in Astronomy.



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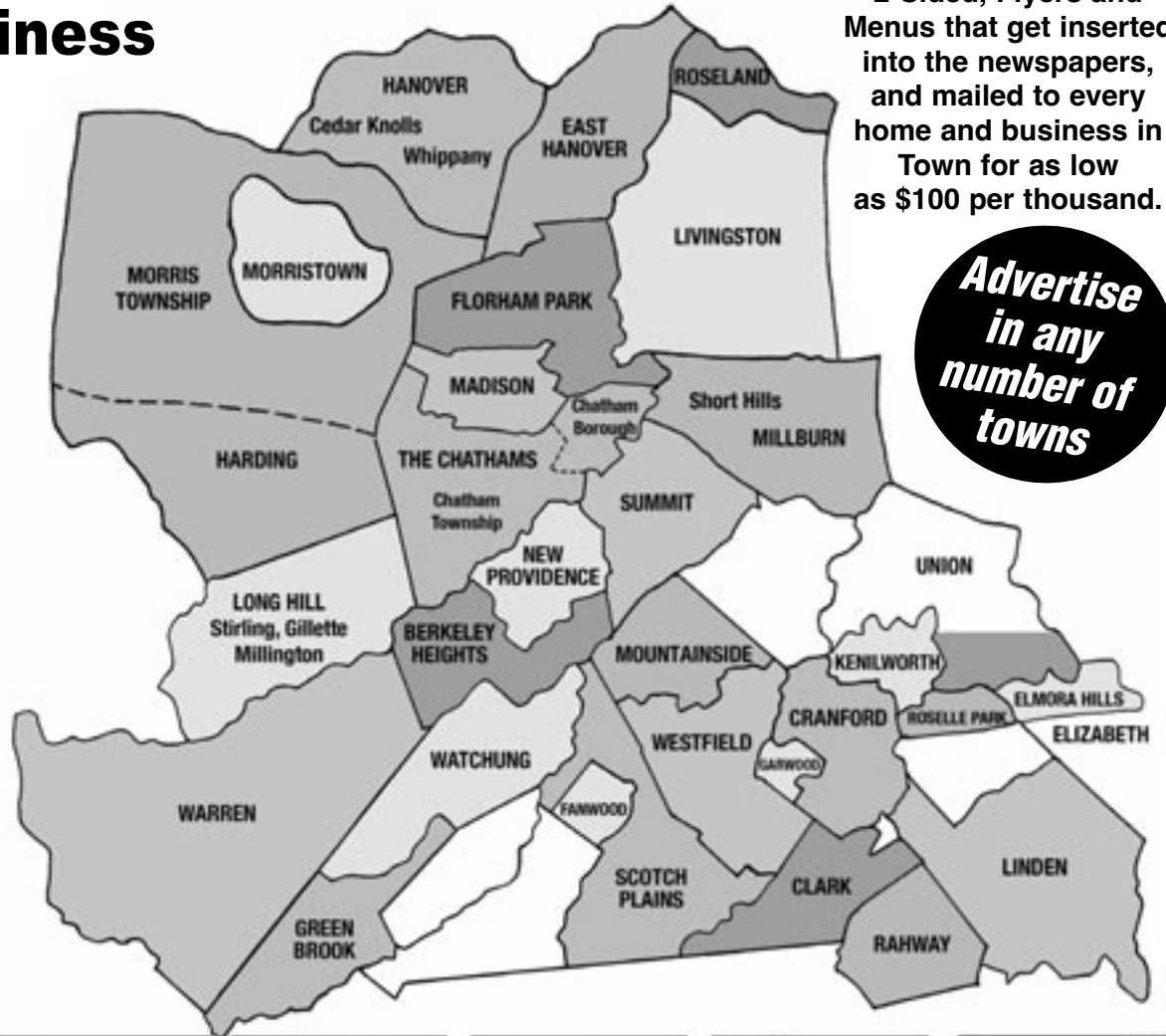
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KENILWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY JANUARY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Bingo For Children:

Mondays at 6:30pm – 7:00pm
Bingo games for children ages 3 & up
January 6, 13 & 27

Lap Sit:

Tuesdays at 10:30am – 10:50am
January 14, 21 & 28

Interactive stories and songs
for ages 0 – 2 years old

PJ Story Time:

Tuesdays at 6:30pm – 7:00pm
January 7, 14, 21 & 28

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

Lego In The Library:

Thursdays at 3:30pm – 4:00pm
Build with Lego bricks for ages 4 - 12

CRAFTS:

Fridays, on January 10 & 24
at 3:30pm - 4:00pm

Registration is required
for each individual craft. Ages; 4 - 9

JANUARY SPECIAL EVENTS

Registration is required for all special events.

Boogie Woogie Babies:

Tuesday, January 7, 10:30am – 11:00am,
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, Jan 8
Join us for stories and yoga poses for the
youngest listeners and their caregiver.
Presented by certified yoga instructor Heather
Valente. Ages: 2 – 5

Fun & Fit:

10:30am – 11:00am on Wednesday, Jan 22
Join us for this Interactive program featuring
movement and music. Program funded by The
Friends of The Kenilworth Public Library.
Ages: 2 – 5

SPECIAL EVENT STORY:

Meet Dusty the Dog on

Thursday, January 23 at 3:30pm – 4:00pm
Children ages 3 and up will be educated and
entertained while learning about the importance
of staying healthy.

Read To A Dog:

Tuesday, January 28 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, January 29
at 10:30am – 11:00am

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

ADULT PROGRAMS

ESL CONVERSATION FOR ADULTS

Tuesdays - January 7, 14, 21 & 28
at 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Saturdays - January 4 & 18
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.

Paper Pals

Monday, January 13 at 6:00pm – 7:45pm,
and Tuesday, January 21 at 2-4pm
for our card making group "Paper Pals."
You don't need any paper crafting experience
to join the fun.

Yarnies

Thursdays, January 2, 9 & 23 at 2-4pm
and

Thursday, January 30 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, January 28 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, l-r) Heather Valente - Yoga Story Time,
Courtney Gaines - Fun & Fit
Courtesy photos

WEAVING DAY INVITE


Kenilworth Public Library

Have you ever wondered how cloth is made?
Join us on Saturday, January 25, 2025, from 10
a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Kenilworth Public Library
for an in-person weaving demonstration by
members of the Westfield Weaver's Guild.
Members will be demonstrating weaving on
various types of looms. There will be an
opportunity to purchase handwoven items just in
time for Valentine's Day! No registration
required. The Kenilworth Public Library is
located at 548 Boulevard, Kenilworth NJ.

SENIOR BUS TRIP TO ATLANTIC CITY JAN. 21

The Kenilworth Senior Club is running a bus
ride to Resorts in Atlantic City of Tuesday,
January 21, 2025. The bus leaves from the Acme
parking lot at 9:30 a.m. All are invited. The cost
is \$40. Call Lillian, 908-709-0515 to register or
for more information.

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(above) Good Tyme String Band

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