# **BUSINESS + LIFE** LWORTH

Issue 208 • May 2025

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# **KENILWORTH STREET FAIR& CLASSIC CAR SHOW - MAY 18**

The 2025 Kenilworth Street Fair and Classic Car Show, hosted by the Borough of Kenilworth, will take place on Sunday, May 18th.

The Boulevard will be closed to vehicle traffic from 14th St. to 24th St. and transformed into a giant block party from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

This event will feature quality exhibitors, a special crafter's section, lots of great food, kiddie rides, and kids area, live music and performances, and local merchants and civic organizations.

#### **SHOPPING**

Shop til you drop along the Boulevard with over 100 quality exhibitors selling their merchandise such as jewelry, handbags, sports collectibles, clothing, home decor, and much more. There is a special section with handmade crafts from local and nearby crafters and artisans with unique one-of-a-kind items.

#### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

This year we have 2 exciting bands. Performing first will be the Green Planet Band from 10am-1pm. They are a family band comprised of teen siblings Kylee, Tyler and Grey, along with Mama Lisa playing all cover music. Performing from 2pm-4pm will be a very seasoned band called Ladies of the Eighties. Their cover music is from the 1980s and beyond. They put on a great show.

There will also be demonstrations from the 2 local karate clubs: Twin Kicks at11:30am and Karate World at 1:30pm in front of the stage. In the music area you will find tables and chairs for you to sit, eat and watch the show.. The music is located on the corner of the Boulevard and 21st Street.

#### **KIDS ZONE**

kiddie bounce rides, slides, and interactive blowups, face painters, sand art & kids games, temporary tattoos, and face painting, just to name **CAR SHOW** a few things.

#### **FOOD TRUCKS**

tables in our live music area. With over 20 gourmet food trucks there will be plenty of items questions to: rprflocal3@gmail.com to choose from. Here is a list of just some of the

Borough of Kenilworth Presents Kenilworth & Classic Car Show 525 Boulevard 10AM-4PM RENNAMEDIA.COM www.jcpromotions.info • 201.998.1144

The children will enjoy this section filled with food that will be there: Cousin's Main Lobster, Magic Mike's Smoked Meats, Dymski's Perogies, Empanada Guy, Cold Stone Creamery, Jersey Pickles, Pat's Italian Sausages and Zeppolees, and so much more.

This year's event will again feature a car show of Custom . . . Classic . . . Street Rod . . . Muscle Cars in front of Harding School. Set up starts Come hungry! As you stroll along the after 10 a.m. Registration - Day of Show. Cars must be registered by 1:00 Boulevard stop to have a bite to eat and sit at p.m. to be judged. Trophies for Winners! All Proceeds go to Pride in Kenilworth Committee. For more Car Show. Info send email with your

Go to JCpromotions.Info for more info.

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# KENILWORTH

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

Kenilworth Business Life is published by Renna Media. 3,500 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Kenilworth, NJ. Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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# **VFW MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE EVENTS - MAY 26**

#### **FLAG PLANTING EVENT - 9 AM,**

The public is invited to join Veterans from VFW Post 2230 and Scout troops for an annual tradition of walking through Graceland Memorial Park Cemetery in Kenilworth, NJ to find headstones of veterans and plant a flag at the grave to commemorate Memorial Day. This very touching event begins with a breakfast served at the Kenilworth VFW Hall at 9 a.m. on Saturday May 24th. Light refreshments are served at the VFW afterwards for all workers at 12:00 after returning to the Post. No preregistration is required, but we will have a signup sheet at breakfast and at the Cemetery. The VFW organizes the event along with the American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, and the Kenilworth Veterans Center.



#### **VETERANS' CENTER EVENT - 11:AM**

The public is invited to attend a ceremony honoring all veterans at 11 a.m. at the Kenilworth Veterans' Center, 33 S. 21st Street, Kenilworth, NJ. Refreshments will be served afterwards. There is no registration required for this event.

For more information, please call the Kenilworth Veterans Center at 908- 276-9769.





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# **EVENT BRINGS THE DANGERS OF DRINKING AND DRIVING TO LIFE**

Kenilworth Police Department

The Kenilworth Police Department, in partnership with David Brearley High School and the Kenilworth Municipal Alliance, recently held their biennial Every 15 Minutes event—an emotional and eye-opening program that brings the dangers of drinking and driving to life without putting anyone at real risk.

This powerful experience was once again met with a strong response from DBHS students, who witnessed firsthand the devastating effects impaired driving can have on families, friendships, and entire communities. By involving their peers in realistic scenarios, the program helped drive home a message that words

alone often can't express.

We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who participated in and supported this important event. A special thank you goes to Detective Byron and DBHS counselor Megan Harrison for their dedication and coordination in bringing this impactful program to life.

Courtesy photo















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# **ROBERT E. LEE LIVED IN KENILWORTH - PART 2 OF 2**

Robert E. Lee, 1892-1963, was the great grandnephew of Confederate General Robert E. Lee. He was an all-giving person, a very good citizen, and a skilled artist and painter. He and his wife Mary were the original owners of 12 Columbia Ave which they purchased in 1941.

In the year 1917 Mr. Lee married Mary Glass. Soon after, the United States was fighting in the "Great War" – later known as WWII. He served in the Army. His first job was as a solderer in a jewelry shop and next as a teacher. He lost teaching positions during the Great Depression due to layoffs. He decided he'd be better off providing for his family on his own. He became a self-employed, highly skilled commercial artist and sign painter.

According to his daughters their father was "a very generous man who often painted things for free for friends, family, and organizations. Because of this" stated his late daughter, Mary Lee Lemme, "my mother watched closely household expenses."

During WWII, Kenilworth authorized an "honor roll" for residents serving in the military. Utilizing his artistic and construction skills, he personally erected on the library lawn without charge, a large billboard containing the names of every resident in the Armed Forces. His inventive mind resulted in him creating moveable name plates so that as someone entered the service, the name could be placed in alphabetical order on the Honor Roll. He shifted all of the names around as needed. The billboard stood for several years after the war's end.

His patriotic and generous spirit caused him to be chosen in the 1940s as a commander of local VFW Post 2230. Pride in the military did not end there. He painted a large mural on the wall of the VFW Post in neighboring Union where he and his family lived for many years before coming to Kenilworth. According to his daughters, this was another pro bono work of artistry.

One of his most beautiful artistic endeavors came when he was permitted to paint the interior of the dome of the Union County Court House in Elizabeth. He crafted a celestial blue scene of constellations, clouds, cherubs and other intricacies. It took weeks to complete. Some years ago, the county government decided to install a false ceiling in the rotunda which very sadly has concealed Mr. Lee's treasured artistic masterpiece.

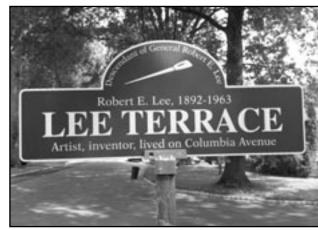
And yes, Lee Ter. that connects S. 17th St. to Coolidge Dr., is named for Mr. Lee. According to his daughters, their father made two large Blue Ridge Manor signs for the company that was building the homes in the development opposite Harding School. They explained that one was posted near Coolidge Dr. and the other near Columbia Ave. In addition, he painted the lettering on the original wooden street signs for each street in Blue Ridge Manor. Again, something at "no charge." They were replaced decades ago with metal sign posts as the wooden ones fell victim to the elements of weather. In return for his "no charge" generosity, the developer named one street in his honor – Lee Terrace.

In Part I of this story, it was noted that the son



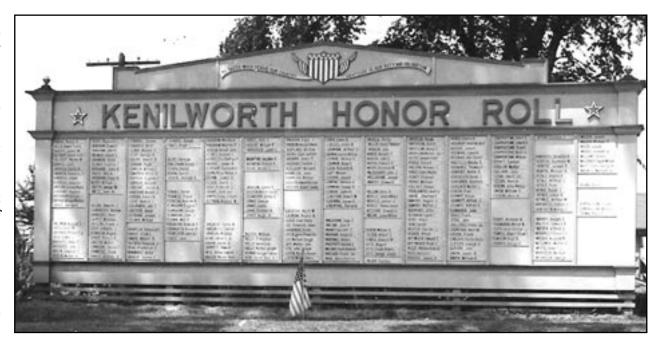
(above) The Lee home, 2003.

Source: Historic Signs



(above) Lee Ter., named for Kenilworth

Source: Historic Signs

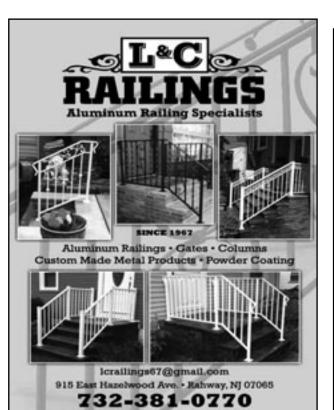


(above) WWII Honor Roll, built by Mr. Lee, 1943.

Source: Ken. Hist. Soc.

of Mr. and Mrs. Lee was killed in a Five Points traffic accident when they lived on Galloping Holl Rd. in Union. As a very young boy, every time I observed Mr. Lee driving his car down the Boulevard on his way home to Columbia Ave., he would stop his car in the middle of the Boulevard and let me and any other pedestrians cross the road. Maybe he did so, recalling what had happened to his son or due to his kind and gener-

ous nature. Perhaps it was for both reasons. Research provided by Walter E. Boright, Ed. D., historian, and Historic Signs, Inc. and interviews (2002) with two of Mr. Lee's daughters: Mary (Lemme) and Madeline Virginia (Anderson). Persons with inquiries about this or other Kenilworth history topics may contact Dr. Boright at drbori@aol.com or 908-256-5200.





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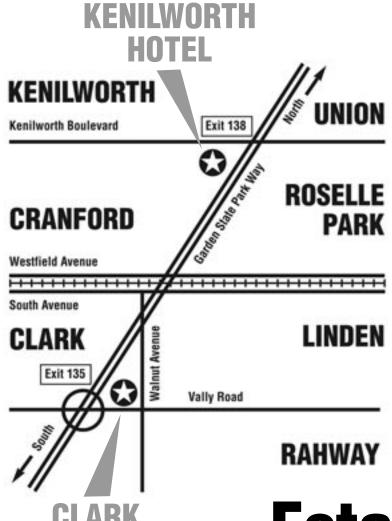
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# May 19th thru 23rd KENILWORTH HOTEL

60 S 31st St, Kenilworth, NJ 07033

9am to 4pm

# EstatesRoadshow.com

Speak to the company's owner: Marshall Smoller: 609-781-6559

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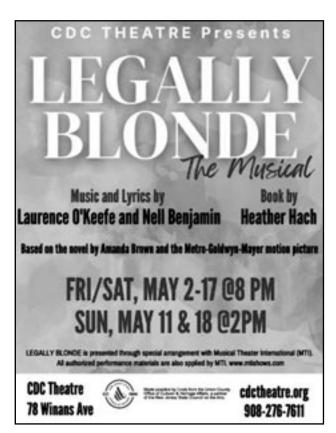
# ADD 20% TOWARD YOUR SALE WITH THIS COUPON!

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# **CDC THEATRE PRESENTS LEGALLY BLONDE**

Harvard's beloved blonde takes the stage at CDC Theatre in Cranford by pink storm in this fun, upbeat story of self-discovery!

A fabulously fun, award-winning musical based on the adored movie, Legally Blonde, the musical, follows the transformation of Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes and scandal in pursuit of her dreams. With music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe & Nell Benjamin and book by Heather Hach, the show is based on the novel by Amanda Brown and the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture.

Action-packed and exploding with memorable songs and dynamic dances - this musical is so much fun, it should be illegal! Elle Woods appears to have it all. Her life is turned upside down when her boyfriend Warner dumps her so he can attend Harvard Law. Determined to get him back, Elle ingeniously charms her way into the prestigious law school. While there, she struggles with peers, professors and her ex. With the support of some new friends, though, Elle

quickly realizes her potential and sets out to prove herself to the world.

Edgar Hidalgo directs the cast which includes Melissa Calicchio as Elle, Zach Mazouat as Emmet, Rachel Love as Paulette, Larry Brustofski as Callahan and Gabe Weiss as Warner. They are joined by a talented cast of supporting actors and a fabulous ensemble! With Musical Director Kaeden Oh, Choreographer Jaimie Bass, Stage Manager Dana Dispoto and Producer Elizabeth Howard on the production team, the show promises to be the crescendo of the 106th season at CDC Theatre.

Performances on May 2-18,

Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.

and Sunday, May 11 and 18 at 2 p.m.

For the best selection and prices, tickets can be ordered by visiting cdctheatre.org.

This production is made possible by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.







# **HIGH SCHOOL SPRING MUSICAL EMMA – MAY 2-3**

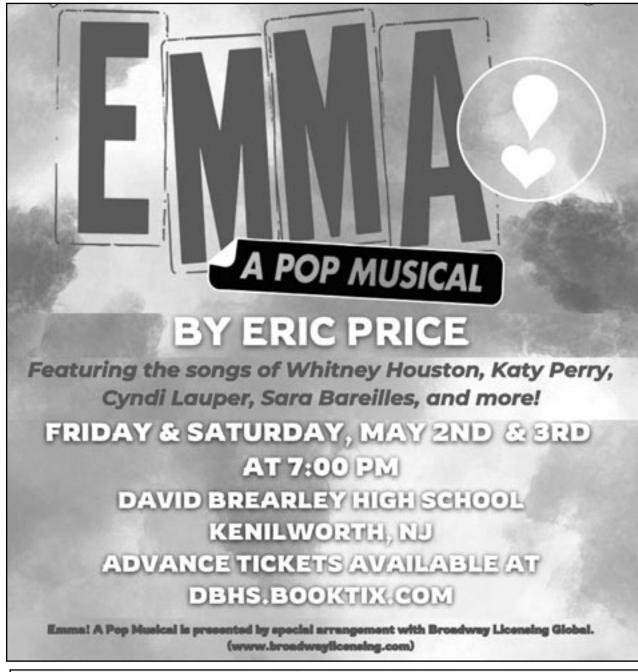
David Brearley High School is excited to announce its spring musical production of Emma! A Pop Musical, scheduled for Friday, May 2nd, and Saturday, May 3rd, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the DBHS auditorium.

Inspired by Jane Austen's beloved novel Emma, this contemporary adaptation is set in a modern-day high school and showcases a vibrant soundtrack featuring songs by legendary female artists and girl groups, including The Supremes, Katy Perry, and more. The story follows Emma, a confident and charismatic high school senior who takes on the role of matchmaker for her

classmates, leading to unexpected romantic complications and self-discovery.

Audiences can look forward to energetic performances of well-known hits such as "Girls Just Want to Have Fun," "How Will I Know," "Roar," and "Brave," all performed by the talented cast and crew of David Brearley High School.

Tickets are available now at dbhs.booktix.com.
Secure your seats today for an evening of music, laughter, and unforgettable entertainment!





# **SENIORS EVENTS**

# SENIOR ARTS, CRAFTS AND PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW/SALE – MAY 18

Local seniors (age 60 or older) will have an opportunity to show and/or sell their artwork. crafts and photographs at an indoor Kenilworth Senior Arts, Crafts and Photography Show that will take place at the Kenilworth Senior Center (526 Boulevard) on Sunday, May 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., during the Kenilworth Street Fair. Exhibit space in the show will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested participants should register by May 9. Registration forms are available at the Kenilworth Senior Center, Kenilworth Public Library and on the Borough website kenilworthborough.com under Departments/Senior Services. For further information, please call Shirley Boyden Maxwell, senior program director, 908-276-1716.

# On May 29 from 11 a m to 2

On May 29, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Kenilworth Senior Center will present a Luaustyle Senior Picnic with musical entertainment at DiMario Park for seniors age 60 or older. Advanced reservations are requested by May 5. To register, interested participants should complete a reservation form, available at the Kenilworth Senior Center, Kenilworth Public Library and on the Borough website(kenilworthborough.com under Departments/Senior Services, or call the Senior Center at 908-276-1716 and leave their name, address and phone number.

A complete listing of senior classes (line dancing, fitness/exercise, Zumba Gold, strength/balance/function, chair yoga, crafts, etc.), Lunch 'n Learn sessions and other programs offered by the Kenilworth Senior Center is posted at the center's front and back entrances and on the Borough website (under Departments/Senior Services). Admission to classes/programs is free for Kenilworth seniors (age 60 and older) and other Union County seniors (space permitting).

#### SENIOR CLUB MEETINGS

Club meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. at the senior building on the Boulevard. Our next meeting is May 7th we will have representatives from town hall to update on things happening in town and if anyone has a specific question they would like to ask please send them in advance if possible to the club president at lilfal@aol.com.

Kenilworth Senior club is currently taking memberships and renewals. \$20 for locals and \$25 for out of town all members must be 55 or older.





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# PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT: "PERSPECTIVES"

The Gallery is located in the Kenilworth Library 548 Boulevard.

The Gallery-on-the-Boulevard will present "Perspectives: Life Through Our Lenses" exhibiting the work of four women photographers from May through August at the Kenilworth Public Library.

Jacki Dickert is a New Jersey fine art photographer and is active in the NJ photography community as an exhibiting artist, teacher, and judge. About her infrared photos she proclaims: "Infrared hones my ability to compose without the distraction of the usual colors and the temptation to fall into cliched ways of seeing."

Cintia Malhotra is a visual artist and educator whose primary medium is photography. Her work has been exhibited in various galleries, including New York and California. Speaking of her photos, she states: "I am in constant observation mode, focusing on what others normally ignore in their day-to-day."

Charlene Federowicz graduated from Rutgers University School of Communication and worked in various industries. Now retired, she is savoring a rediscovered passion for photography. She enjoys "photographing nature, particularly the beauty of the ocean at sunrise, as well as the sunsets along the bay."

Barbara Wirkus is a self taught photographer who has exhibited her award winning work in local galleries for many years. She explains that "As I enter the 9th decade of my life, I am drawn to photographing things that are aging and deteriorating. They document the last stages of life."

The exhibit is free and open to the public during regular library hours. For more information call 908-276-2451.

Federowicz: Great Bay Sunset

Wirkus: Wilhelm

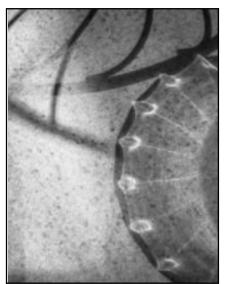
Dickert: Waiting for a Train

Malhotra: The Machine Continues to Churn



(above) Great Bay Sunset







(above, l-r) Wilhelm, The Machine Continues to Churn, Waiting for a Train





# **KENILWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY MAY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

Phone: 908-276-2451 • www.kenilworthlibrary.org/ • 548 Boulevard, Kenilworth, NJ 07033

### **CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS**

#### WEEKLY PROGRAMS: Bingo For Children

May 5, 12 & 19

Mondays at 6:30pm - 7:00pm Bingo games for children ages 3 & up

#### **Lap Sit**

May 13 & 27

Tuesdays at 10:30am - 10:50amInteractive stories and songs for ages 0-2 years old

#### **PJ Story Time**

May 6, 13, 20 & 27

Tuesdays at 6:30pm - 7:00pm

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 At The Library**

May 8 & 29

Thursdays at 3:30pm - 4:00pm
Build your own unique creations with Lego
bricks for age 4 - 12

#### **Fun Friday Crafts**

May 9 & 23

Friday at 3:30pm - 4:00pm

Ages: 4-9

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

#### **Saturday Toddler Time**

Saturday, May 17 at 10:30am – 11:00am Interactive stories and songs for the youngest listeners.

Ages: 3 & up

#### Saturday Lap Sit

Saturday, May 24 at 10:30am – 11:00am Interactive stories and songs for the youngest listeners.

Ages: 0 - 2

### **MAY 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.

#### **SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH WORKSHOP**

4:00pm – 5:00pm on Thursday, May 1
Join us for an interactive demonstration of the ancient Hindu art form of Rangoli.

Children will have an opportunity to participate in this event.

Rangoli is the art of using bright colored sand or other materials to create intricate and kaleidoscopic designs. This program will be presented by Purvi Shah.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Children ages 6 – 12 years old may register for this workshop

#### **BOOGIE WOOGIE BABIES**

10:30am – 11:00am on Tuesday, May 6 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, May 14
Join us for stories and yoga poses for the youngest listeners and their caregiver.
This program will be presented by Heather Valente for ages: 2 - 5.

#### **COMEDY MIND READING EVENT**

7:00pm - 7:45pm on Thursday, May 22 at The Kenilworth Public Library Ages 10 - adult

Flavian "Fever" is spreading and setting the world on fire with fun and exciting Mental Marvels. Flavian will read your mind and make you laugh as he reveals answers to some very hilarious questions.

Registration is required.

#### **GOOD TYME STRING BAND**

10:30am – 11:00am on Wednesday, May 28. All ages are welcome to attend and enjoy foot tapping knee slapping banjo music.

# ADULT PROGRAMS THE GOLDEN AGE OF BROADWAY

Monday, May 5 at 7:00pm – 8:00pm

Join us for The Golden Age of Broadway presented by The Florian Schantz Jazz Combo. This event will feature a mix of Broadway and Hollywood music. In addition to the live performance, group members will talk about the music, composers, musicians, instruments and playing techniques.

The combo is led by Union County's own 22 year old professional trumpet player, Florian Schantz, who started the band at age 9 and has performed over 900 engagements across NJ,

# NY, CT, PA and Germany. Card making group "Paper Pals."

Join us on Tuesday, May 20 at 2-4pm and Monday, May 12 at 6:00 – 7:45pm

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

### "Yarnies"

Join us on Thursdays, May 1, 8, 15 & 22 at 2-4pm and Thursday, May 29 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"

Join us on Tuesday, May 27 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.

#### **English Conversation For Adults**

Tuesdays, May 6, 13, 20 & 27 at 5:30pm - 6:30pm And on Saturdays, May 3 & 17 at 10:30am - 12:00pm.

Want to practice or learn more English? We will be hosting a free program for adults ages 18 and over. For more information, please call Krissantonia at 973-309-6971.

#### **ELVIS: KING OF ROCK & ROLL**

Thursday, May 15 at 7:00pm – 8:00pm Ages: 14 – adult

Elvis tribute performer Ruben Castillo brings this remarkable era to life in "Elvistory: The King of Rock & Roll 1956-1959". Ruben will bring the social and political context of the time to his presentation which will highlight Elvis's films Loving You, Jailhouse Rock and Kid Creole.

Elvis took America by storm, snaring a prized spot on Ed Sullivan's television show, appearing on numerous other variety programs, and diving headlong into film acting.

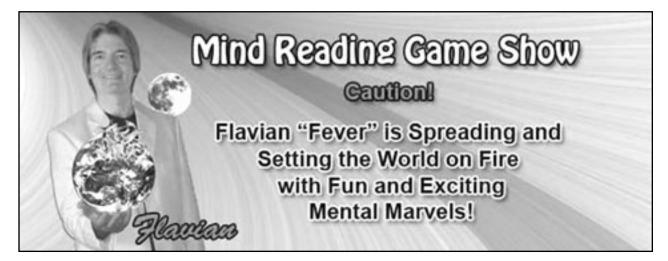
As he captivated audiences, the world changed. America emerged from its "Leave It to Beaver" age to face crises such as the rise of communism in Cuba and simmering racial tensions in Southern states that neared the boiling point.

This program has been made possible by funds from The Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Registration is required.

### Tea Party and Spring Flower Extravaganza

Saturday, May 17 at 11:00am – 1:30pm at the Kenilworth Public Library In honor of the upcoming Chelsea Flower Show in London, we are hosting a mini tea party and fun flower program. Registration is required.



(above) Flavian "Fever" is spreading and setting the world on fire with fun and exciting Mental Marvels. Flavian will read your mind and make you laugh as he reveals answers to some very hilarious questions on May 22nd starting at 7 p.m. Ages 10 – adult. Registration is required.

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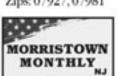
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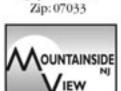
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# **ASTRONOMY DAY MAY 17, 2025**

Amateur Astronomers, Inc. along with the every Friday night with their twin domes looking 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!

Housed in the William Miller Sperry

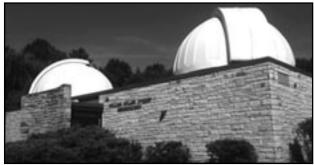
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at the heavens. One of the domes houses a 24inch reflector and the other dome houses a 10 refractor, which was constructed by club members. Public lectures start at 8:30 p.m. on Fridays, they are on current topics in Astronomy.

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.

For more information about AAI email, membership@asterism.org or visit asterism.org.



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#### **NEW JERSEY: POWERED BY SMALL BUSINESS**

It would not be a stretch to say that the New Jersey economy is built on the backs of the small businesses that call the state their home. Nearly one million SMB enterprises are registered in the state as of 2024, a sector of the economy that now accounts for half of all employment in the state. Things are competitive, to say the least. So, how do you, as a business owner, stand out?

#### WHAT TO BOOST YOUR ONLINE VISIBILITY? **VISIT NJLOCALINFO.COM**

To answer that question, we need to first understand the shape of the problem facing many small business owners. There is one very critical thing putting many businesses at a massive disadvantage, not only when compared to other SMBs, but against larger competitors as well. That key ingredient? Digital marketing.

A recent Forbes report found that over half of all small business growth in 2025 comes from digital sources. Translation? Without a digital presence, you are leaving a huge chunk of your potential revenue on the table.

### **NJLOCALINFO TO THE RESCUE**

help level the playing field. NJLocalInfo.com has developed a two-fold visibility solution that will allow your business to quickly and sustainably build organic traffic in your local market. They accomplish this both by establishing high-quality backlinks to build site authority, and by promoting your business directly to customers through their own directory. **PROVEN SYSTEM** 

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