

BUSINESS + LIFE

KENILWORTH LIFE

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WISHING A HAPPY RETIREMENT TO ROBIN KOERNER

Kenilworth Public Library Staff

Robin Koerner arrived at the Kenilworth Public Library, September 1995. This was to be a part time position, lasting a few months. Well, 30 years later our wonderful Children's Coordinator "Miss Robin" has announced her retirement.

Each day, Miss Robin is found in our Children's Department, ready to help children, parents, caregivers and teachers find exactly what they need. Did the child have a report that was due in two days? Robin has you covered. Does a grandparent or parent need a special book to read to a class filled with students? No problem. Robin knows every book in her collection. Most of the time she doesn't even need a title, she just somehow knows what is needed, goes to the exact spot on the shelf and pulls out whatever book is needed at the time. It's library magic!

Has your family enjoyed a fun-filled program at our library? Robin has arranged for events including: magic shows, science programs, author visits, musical programs, bingo games, robotic dinosaur visits, star gazing, drone shows, stem events, and of course our legendary tricky tray events.

Speaking of a tricky tray event, our sweet, soft-spoken Robin was once nearly left behind at the library during prep work for our largest tricky tray events. Staff members were busy traveling from the library to the event venue. We were trying to keep track of supplies and prizes. Well, Robin was so busy making sure everything was just right. She was quietly working away in her office, straightening out last-minute details. Guess who we almost left behind in the building? Robin!

Robin has a huge spot in her heart for animals. If there is an animal available for a library visit, Robin will make sure they visit the Kenilworth



Public Library. Teacup piggies, alpacas, goats, sled dogs, rabbits, reptiles, penguins, hawks, horses, cats and a porcupine were among some of the animal guests Robin hosted at the Kenilworth Public Library. She was especially fond of a not so miniature pig that had talents including typing and playing the xylophone.

Of course, we can't write about Robin Koerner without mentioning her beloved Toddler Time, Lap Sit and PJ Storytime events. Miss Robin has read hundreds if not thousands of stories to generations of children. The most heart-warming part of this is she still practices, and gives 100 percent to each child that comes to Storytime.

Oh, and Robin is such a devoted employee, she was named Libraries of Union County Consortium employee of the year 2006 and 2018.

We want to invite our community members to stop by the Kenilworth Public Library Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 3 p.m. to enjoy an open-house style farewell event for Robin. Come, enjoy some refreshments, and share your stories and memories with Robin and the rest of the Kenilworth Public Library team.

We wish Robin all good things in her retirement. She will be greatly missed.



(above) Library Director Lorraine Ruiz, and Library Trustees joined in celebrating Robin being named Libraries of Union County Consortium 'Employee of the Year 2018'.

Courtesy Photos

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NEW JERSEY DAR SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

High school seniors in New Jersey who are U.S. citizens, are in need of financial assistance to continue their education, and plan to attend a college or university in the U.S., may apply for one or both scholarships offered by the New Jersey State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

The Vail Scholarship provides a one-time award of \$2,000 to a student who plans to major in political science, history, government or economics.

The New Jersey State DAR Scholarship offers a one-time award of \$1,000 to a student who reflects the DAR objectives of community

service and patriotism.

The deadline to submit applications is December 31, 2025. Scholarships will be awarded in April 2026.

For application forms, contact Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter DAR at ESCchapterDAR@gmail.com.

DAR is a nonprofit, nonpolitical, service organization open to women 18 and older who are descended from a man or woman who aided the cause of American independence. The mission of the DAR is to promote education, historic preservation, and patriotism.

Learn more at www.DAR.org.

COUNTDOWN TO JULY 4TH, 2026

America250 - In New Jersey & Nationwide

Next year, on July 4, 2026, the United States of America will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our country's past, to honor the contributions of all Americans, and to also look ahead towards the future that we want to create and leave behind for the next generation of Americans.

On the federal level, America250.org is a nonpartisan initiative working to engage every American in commemorating the 250th

anniversary of our country. This multi-year effort, from now through July 4, 2026, is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond.

In New Jersey, RevolutionNJ.org has been set up and is a partnership between the New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC), a division of the New Jersey Department of State, and the nonprofit Crossroads of the American Revolution Association to plan the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in New Jersey.



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WHAT, WHERE, AND WHEN IN OLD KENILWORTH

KENILWORTH'S DISAPPEARING HILLS – PART V – SERIES FINAL

The fifth and final article in the Kenilworth Hills series did not appear last month in order to present a Veterans Day tribute. This five-part series ends by looking at “the Galloping Hills.”

The most well-known portion of the Galloping Hills is its Galloping Hill Golf Course, commonly known as “The Hill.” The highest point is 149 feet above sea level. According to the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation, the course is about 314 acres – 228 (73%) in Kenilworth and 86 (27%) in Union.

In 1921, after voters approved the creation of the Union County Park Commission, the Commission used a portion of a special \$2,500,000 appropriation for open space acquisition to purchase this undeveloped acreage from various owners to be part of the county park system. In 1928 the golf course opened with a modest clubhouse at the top of the hill at what is 3 Golf Dr.

There is an important fact about these hills that make them unlike the other hills featured in earlier articles about Kenilworth’s hills. It is they remain nearly totally unchanged physically going back to the Ice Age. The exceptions include some excavation and landscaping work in building and maintaining the golf course and some acreage was lost when the Garden State Parkway took a swath of the golf course to construct the Garden State Parkway.

Early old timers, all of whom have since passed away, told stories of witnessing silent movies being made at the old Rahway Valley RR Station, along its tracks, and upon and over the Galloping Hills. Fred Hiller (1885-1977) spoke of actors changing into costumes in the station building for westerns he saw being “shot” along

the railroad line and on Galloping Hill itself. Mike Wojcio (1912-2010) recalled an American Indian tent being pitched at the foothills and seeing bandit cowboys chasing a young woman across the Galloping hills on horseback. Anna Grippo Scheuerer (1885-1991) told of the railroad station building itself being moved from the RR tracks up onto Galloping Hill for filming a movie and then returned to its location.

The Galloping Hills were an immensely popular site for many winter time activities. At times thousands of adults and children would be there on a given day with cars overloading the parking lot and more spilling out to park along the Boulevard and Galloping Hill Rd. They came for ice skating on the pond along the entry road that is now all cattails. Snow sledding drew the most people. The steepest slope – a drop into a valley – was filled in and covered over when the Parkway came through. The ski run had a motorized tow rope pulling skiers to the top of a hill where a four-legged water tower once stood. This caused some to mistakenly think it was Kenilworth’s famed Tin Kettle Hill. On the far side of the clubhouse was tobogganing.

Winter accidents, difficulty for rescue workers to get to the injured thru snow, and up and down slopes, and over hills, coupled with liability concerns, caused these winter activities to be prohibited in the 1970s.

Research provided by Walter E. Boright, Ed. D., historian, and Historic Signs, Inc. including data from the G. H. Cook Topographical Map of 1888. Persons with inquiries about this, or other Kenilworth history topics, may contact Dr. Boright at drbori@aol.com or 908-256-5200.



(above) Anna Scheuerer saw silent movies filmed on Galloping Hill.

Source: Family



(above) Original Clubhouse, 1936

Source: Union County Parks Dept.



(above) Sleigh riders, 1950s

Source: Union County Parks Dept



(above) Skater, 1950s

Source: Union County Parks Dept.



(above) RVRR Station with Galloping Hill in background, ca. 1910

Source: Historic Signs

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ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPERA SPECTACULAR - DEC 7

December 7, 2025, 3:00 PM - Celebrate the magic of the season as Opera at Florham presents its beloved Annual Holiday Spectacular at St. Margaret of Scotland Church, 6 Sussex Avenue, Morristown, NJ.

After an incredible turnout at our recent Due Soprani e Un Tenore concert, you've GOT to get your tickets for the December 7th Holiday Spectacular! This concert will be held at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Morristown, which offers FREE PARKING and plenty of room in the beautiful sanctuary—so gather your friends and family for an afternoon of festive music and joy.

Whether you're a lifelong Opera lover or discovering Opera at Florham for the first time, this delightful performance captures the spirit of the holidays through music that transcends generations. From beloved Arias to familiar seasonal melodies, the Holiday Spectacular is a joyful celebration of artistry and community -

perfect for audiences of all ages.

Opera at Florham's Holiday Spectacular is more than a concert—it's a heartwarming experience that has become a highlight of the holiday season across New Jersey. Each year, this festive performance transforms St. Margaret of Scotland Church into a winter wonderland of music, where world-class voices and live accompaniment inspire wonder and joy.

Expect to be swept away by the power of the human voice, the beauty of timeless melodies, and the spirit of togetherness that defines this special time of year. Whether you come to be uplifted, share the magic with family and friends, or simply savor the music of the season, the Holiday Spectacular is a gift you'll remember long after the final note.

Tickets are \$30 for general admission, with student discounts available. For tickets and more information, please visit operaatflorham.org. Purchase in advance on line or at the door.

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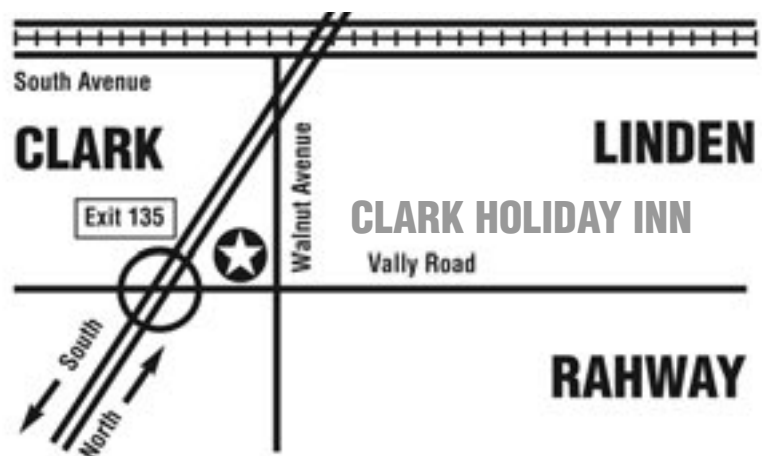


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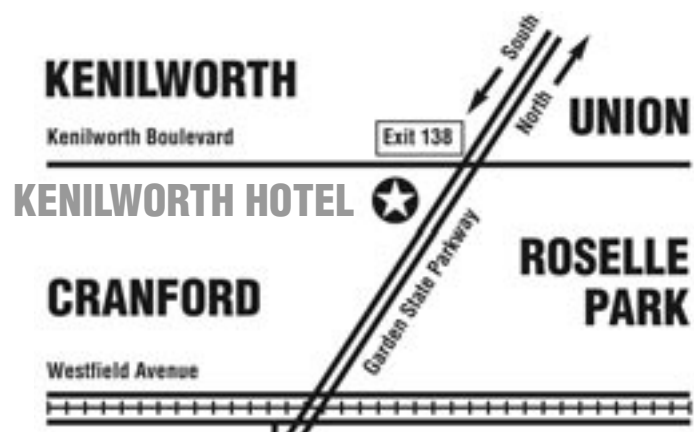


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TWO CONCERTS: HOLIDAY TENORS & BROADWAY THROUGH THE AGES



New Jersey Festival Orchestra ushers in the holiday season with two major December performances that showcase the full breadth of the orchestra's artistic range.

Under the direction of Maestro David Wroe, NJFO welcomes audiences to celebrate the magic of the season with Return of the 3 Holiday Tenors on December 6 and 7, followed by the orchestra's signature New Year's celebration, Broadway Through the Ages, on December 31 and January 1.

Return of the 3 Holiday Tenors features award-winning vocalists John Kun Park, Luke Norvell, and Michael DeShield, each bringing a distinct artistic profile to this beloved NJFO tradition. Park, praised for his "radiant lyricism," has appeared with major opera houses across the country. Norvell, known for his "effortless charm and ringing tenor," continues to shine as a rising star on both concert and operatic stages. DeShield, celebrated for his powerful presence and versatility, is a frequent soloist with ensembles throughout the Northeast.

The trio joins NJFO for a sparkling program of holiday favorites, classical tenor showpieces, and uplifting choral moments. They are joined by the Holy Trinity Choir of Westfield and Central Avenue Choir of Madison, adding festive warmth and community spirit to this seasonal celebration. Performances take place Saturday, December 6 at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield and Sunday, December 7 at Drew University in Madison.

The festivities continue with Broadway Through the Ages, NJFO's dazzling New Year's tradition performed in Westfield and Basking Ridge. This year's concert brings together a powerhouse lineup of guest artists: Tess Marshall, acclaimed for her magnetic stage presence and vocal brilliance; Lisa Marie Rogali, a versatile performer equally at home in opera and musical theater; and Peter Kendall Clark, praised for his "commanding baritone and dramatic flair." This year's program also features stars from the Dance Theater of Harlem, adding movement, elegance, and theatrical artistry to this musical celebration. Together with NJFO, the ensemble leads audiences on a spirited journey through iconic Broadway classics.

"Both programs illuminate what music does best," said Maestro Wroe. "They bring people together, lift the spirit, and remind us of the joy and renewal this season represents."

RETURN OF THE 3 HOLIDAY TENORS

Sat Dec 6, 7 PM

The Presbyterian Church, Westfield

Sun Dec 7, 3 PM

Drew University, Madison

BROADWAY THROUGH THE AGES

Wed Dec 31, 5 PM

Westfield High School

Thu Jan 1, 2:30 PM

Sieminski Theater

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Return of the 3 Holiday Tenors

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SUN, Dec 7 at 3:00 pm
Drew University, Madison

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WED, Dec 31 at 5:00
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THURS, Jan 1 at 2:30
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pipesofchristmas.com

This annual concert is a special fundraising event that supports our cultural outreach and scholarship programs.

The sound of pipes and drums will once again ring out this holiday season as the 27th Annual Pipes of Christmas returns with performances in Boston, New York City, and Summit, New Jersey.

Presented by the Learned Kindred of Currie, the beloved concert celebrates Scotland and Ireland's rich musical and spiritual heritage through a vibrant program of traditional carols, hymns, and readings that tell the story of Christmas through a distinctly Celtic lens.

Audiences will experience stirring performances by world-class musicians on bagpipes, brass, fiddle, harp, and organ, alongside the majestic voices of the Pipes of Christmas Choir. Narrations drawn from the works of Scottish poets, scripture, and classic holiday literature bring warmth, reflection, and inspiration to the stage.

Over the years, The Pipes of Christmas has become a cherished tradition for families across generations, drawing capacity audiences from across North America and abroad.

Beyond the stage, the concert has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to support educational and cultural initiatives, including music scholarships in Scotland, the United States, and Canada - helping nurture the next generation of artists and scholars.

This year's program will feature new musical selections alongside cherished favorites such as Highland Cathedral, Auld Lang Syne, and Silent

Night, performed in the rich Celtic style that has captivated audiences for over two decades.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

- Boston, MA – December 5-6, Church of the Covenant at 7PM and Noon
- New York, NY – December 13, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church at 2PM
- Summit, NJ – Central Presbyterian Church at 2 and 7PM

Complete information and tickets are available on the concert website at WWW.PIPESOFCHRISTMAS.COM.

- Global Webcast of Concert Highlights to Follow

For those unable to attend in person, concert highlights will once again be shared with audiences around the world through the Pipes of Christmas Global Webcast, premiering on December 19 for subscribers.

The broadcast brings the magic of the live performances to homes across six continents, allowing friends and families everywhere to share in the music, message, and joy of the season.

ABOUT THE LEARNED KINDRED OF CURRIE

The Learned Kindred of Currie is an international Scottish heritage society dedicated to celebrating Scotland's history, language, and culture. The organization sponsors the annual Pipes of Christmas concerts and a variety of educational programs, including scholarships for young musicians, writers, and scholars.

KENILWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Located at 548 Boulevard. Library website is kenilworthlibrary.org. Registration for programs may be done in person or by calling 908 276-2451. The Library is handicapped accessible. facebook.com/kenilworthworth.public.library

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

WEEKLY PROGRAMS:

Bingo For Children

Mondays at 6:30pm – 7:00pm
Bingo games for children ages 3 & up
December 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

Lap Sit

Tuesdays at 10:30am – 10:50am
Interactive stories and songs
December 9 & 16

for ages 0 – 2 years old

Saturday Lap Sit

Saturday at 10:30am – 11:00am
Interactive stories and songs
December 20

for ages 0 – 2 years old

PJ Story Time

Tuesdays at 6:30pm – 7:00pm
December 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
Interactive stories and activities
December 3

for ages 2 – 3

Saturday Toddler Time

December 13. Saturday at 10:30am – 11:00am
Interactive stories and activities for ages 2 – 3

Lego At The Library

December 11 & 18

Thursdays at 3:30pm – 4:00pm

Ages: 4 – 12

Build with Lego bricks and design your own creations. Registration is not required.

Fun Friday Crafts

Fridays December 5 & 19 at 3:30pm – 4:00pm

Ages: 4 – 9

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

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.

BOOGIE WOOGIE BABIES

10:30am – 11:00am on Tuesday, December 2

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

ELVISTORY - Christmas With The "King"

Thursday, December 4 at 7:00pm – 8:00pm

Ages: 5 – Adult

Award-winning Elvis Tribute Artist and "Elvis-torian" Ruben Castillo will step into character for the live, musical Yuletide journey. The audience will learn about Elvis's love of the holidays and traditions and toys during his career, and will be invited to join in holiday

songs recorded by The King. Castillo has more than 30 years of experience as a musical theater actor in community and regional productions.

His voice-over talents include video game characters, celebrity impersonations, and children's interactive storybooks.

YOGA STORY TIME

Wednesday, December 10. 10:30am – 11:00am

Join us for stories and yoga poses for the youngest listeners and their caregiver.

This program will be presented by certified yoga instructor Heather Valente for ages: 2 - 5.

Read To A Dog

Tuesday, December 9 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 a certified therapy dog, Savor. Children will learn to associate reading with a 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.

Readers may register for a 15-minute visit.

GOOD Tyme STRING BAND

Wednesday, December 17. 10:30am – 11:00am

Children are welcome to wear their Halloween costumes to this event. All ages are welcome to attend and enjoy foot tapping knee slapping banjo music.

ADULT PROGRAMS

ADULT BOOK TALK – SHORTE LIST: WHEN CHRISTMAS COMES TO TOWNLEE

Monday, December 8 at 6:00pm – 7:00pm

A funny, universal story set in a small New Jersey town-Shorte List satisfies all the requirements of a traditional Christmas tale with some new twists for the digital age. Author Scott Mehno will share his story about how Shorte List came to be a novel, as well as discuss the book's revealing twist on the origin story of Santa Claus and Charles Dickens, himself. Shorte List is a funny and heartwarming story about the power of believing in each other.

ENGLISH CONVERSATIONS FOR ALL

Monday, December 29 at 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Looking to improve your English speaking skills in a friendly, relaxed setting? Join our English Conversations For All Program at the Kenilworth Public Library! This free, drop-in program is designed for adult English language learners of all levels who want to build confidence and fluency in everyday conversation. Each session offers opportunities to: Practice speaking and listening in small groups; Learn useful vocabulary and phrases; Explore topics like daily life, work, culture, and community; Meet new people and share experiences. Please join us for a free two-hour session on the last Monday of each month. Whether you're new to English or just want to keep practicing, everyone is welcome!




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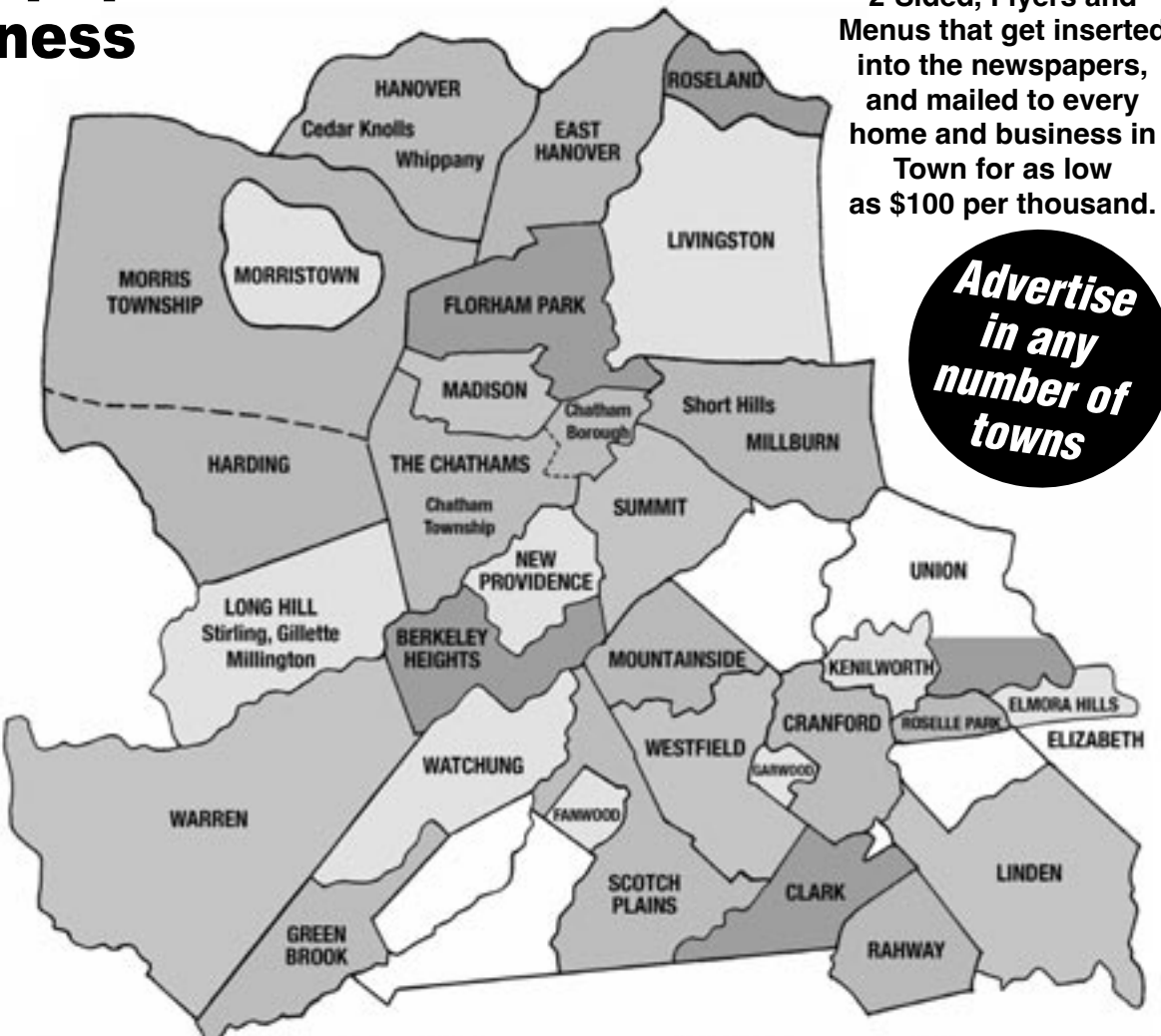
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6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF PAGE	6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
12 Units	6.5"x14"	400	960	1400	1800	2100	2400	2700	3000	3300	3600	3900
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AN OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS AT THE NITSCHKE HOUSE IN KENILWORTH

Kenilworth Historical Society

During a Sunday, Dec. 7 (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 holidays, view exhibits, enjoy favorite holiday tunes sung by the Christmas Matters Holiday Carolers (dressed in Dickens-style 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. 7 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 and Kenilworth Historical Society vice president, Fran Day, together with the Christmas Matters Carolers. Also shown is Santa with Kenilworth Historical Society volunteers and some of the many children who visited. Further details about this year's celebration and other events will be posted on Facebook.



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