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Issue 189 • December 2025

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## HALLOWEEN PARADE WAS SPOOKTACULAR

Linden's Spooktacular Halloween Parade was more colorful than ever! We again want to thank all those who participated, showed up and volunteered along with a special thanks to the Halloween Parade Committee and Sandy Jackson who made sure the parade went without a hitch.



Photos by City of Linden

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## KNITTING AND CROCHETING FOR A CAUSE

A fun session of knitting and/or crocheting occurs every Tuesday morning from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the JTG Center. A group of ladies gather to socialize while they knit and crochet using

their talents to make blankets for adults and children. The blankets are donated to local hospitals, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, etc. New members are always welcome.



Courtesy Photo

## LIFE in LINDEN

Renna Media, LLC, Publishers  
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Life In Linden is published by Renna Media. 18,000 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Linden, 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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## THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE MVP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

### *The Yuletide Carol Returns to Linden*

For Immediate Release Mystic Vision Players, the resident theatre company of Linden that took you Into the Woods this summer, rings in the holidays with our annual Yuletide Carol concert on Sunday, December 7th at 3:00 p.m.. Held in conjunction with the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist (2018 Dewitt Terrace, Linden), our Yuletide Carol promises magical family fun to brighten up your holiday season.

This year's program boasts a wonderful community choir under the direction of Howard

Whitmore and seasonal favorites including White Christmas, It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year, Burrito Sabanero and more performed by fabulous local talents.

And don't forget to join in our holiday raffle...bring home a little gift for yourself!

Tickets are only \$15 general admission with coffee and Christmas cookies for all! You can be purchase yours in advance by visiting [mysticvisionplayers.com](http://mysticvisionplayers.com) or pay cash at the door. All funds go toward helping to support the programs at ECSJB!

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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.

### 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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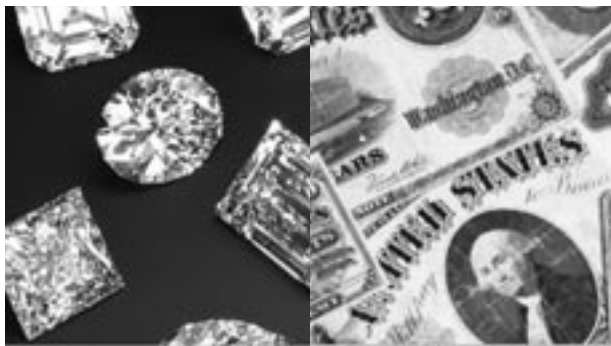
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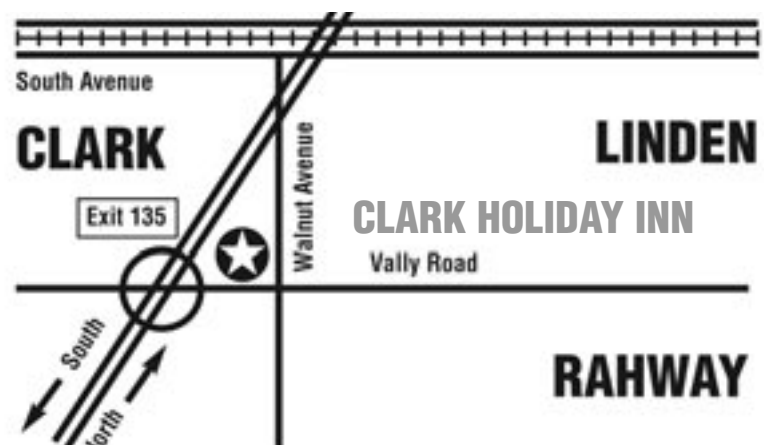
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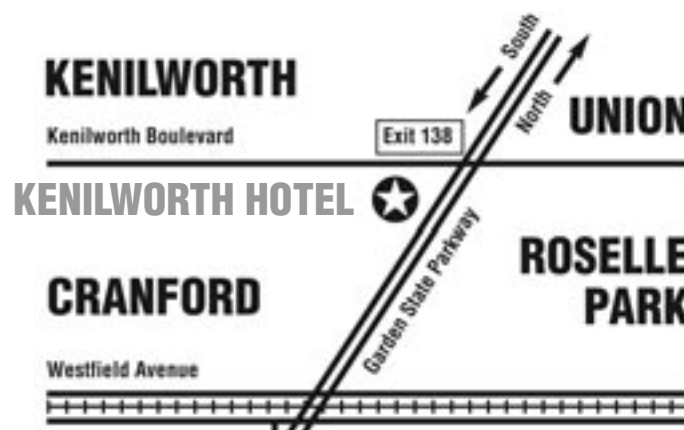
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# KIWANIS CLUB 10TH ANNUAL TASTE OF LINDEN

Submitted by June Lazaro

The Grand Banquet Hall in Linden held the 10th Annual Taste of Linden on November 10, 2025. The evening was filled with local restaurants, supporting businesses, neighbors, some spirits, and coffee too! Linden High School ROTC cadets lent us helping hands and showed their commitment to serving others.

Special thanks to The Grand Banquet Hall for creating a great atmosphere; especially Leo from T & L Catering. He served with his smile and stayed to the end. The City of Linden was a collaborative partner, and their contribution is greatly appreciated. Mayor Armstead spoke proudly of the Linden Kiwanis Club community mindset and commitment. Assistant Linden Public School Superintendent, Ms. Louis, shared her focus and support.

So many local establishments shared their cuisine, time, and staff. This year participants were III Amici Ristorante, Applebee's Grill & Bar, Hook & Reel Cajun Seafood, It's So Delicious Ice Cream, Jersey Mike's Subs, Kinya Ramen, Machichi Bakery & Café, Meson Tropical, Metro Liquors, Pinho's Bakery, Primavera's, Starbucks, Supra Sushi and T&L/Leon's Catering. Some attendants did not even know that a few of the restaurants were in Linden.

Thanks to attendants, sponsors and the 50/50, \$4,000 was raised. Sponsors included: Platinum: Linden Education Association Gold: Just in time Chemicals Silver: Coldwell Banker Liberty, Laundry World, Linden Chamber Division of GECC, Northfield Bank, Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery, Primerica, Unity Bank, Ugly Dumpling, WAE Properties, Bronze: Lois Bass, Dolores Maslo, In memory of Myra Volpe, It's So Delicious Ice Cream & Stella Tylicki.

Donations received go towards scholarships and sponsoring of our Linden Public School K-Kid clubs and other community projects. Please consider joining our club, as members are aging and our youth is our future. For information on joining, contact June Lazaro at 908-930-8310 or

email her at junlazaro@verizon.net. The Kiwanis Club of Linden has monthly Wednesday luncheon meetings at 11:30 a.m. at Just In Time Chemicals located at 1711 W. Elizabeth Avenue in Linden. We host hybrid meetings which can be attended via ZOOM or in person,

The 10th Kiwanis Club of Linden Taste of Linden truly was a success because of our community and fellow Kiwanians. After all was settled, I looked around, smiled thinking what a great community gathering. Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!! June



Courtesy Photo

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All programs are presented free of charge. Space is limited so registration is recommended.  
LindenLibrary-NJ.gov or call 908-298-3830. Like us on Facebook and Instagram.

## CHILDREN:

### 12/1 at 4 pm, Holiday Craft

Come join us for Children's Craft Club where we will make a fun holiday craft.

### 12/3 and 12/17 at 4 pm, Chess Club

Come learn the basics and strategies of chess!

### 12/8 at 4 pm, Holiday games, coloring, crafts

Come celebrate the holiday season together with games, coloring, and crafts!

## TEENS:

### 12/1 at 4 pm, Holiday Slime

Get ready for the holidays by making holiday themed slime! Space is limited. Advance registration is required.

### 12/18 at 4 pm, Baking: Red velvet cookies

Get ready for the holidays by making festive red velvet cookies, perfect for friend and family celebrations. Space is limited. Advance registration is required.

### 12/15 at 4 pm, Crystal snowflake ornaments

Join us in making your own holiday decoration, crystal snowflake ornaments! Space is limited. Advance registration is required.

## ADULTS:

### 12/3 at 6:30 pm, Book Club: The Felons' Ball

Join us to discuss this month's pick and for a Q&A with author Polly Stewart!

### 12/8 at 6:30 pm, Linden and its history

Everything you wanted to know about your hometown - Linden: why are we celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2025, and other Linden secrets & trivia you never knew!

### 12/9 at 7 pm, Holiday Concert

Get in the holiday spirit with Joel and Francine as they present some of your favorite holiday songs and carols. All ages welcome!

### 12/10 at 6:30 pm, De-Stress Fest

Join us for a relaxing evening with coloring, music, puzzles, games, snacks, and more!

### 12/16 at 7 pm, Trivia

Come test your knowledge and win prizes with a game of trivia.

### 12/17 at 6:30 pm, Adult Craft Club:

#### Cork Reindeer

Join us to create your own cork reindeer! All materials will be provided. Space is limited. Advance registration is required. Registration opens 12/1.

### 12/18 at 10 am, Morning Makers Craft Club:

#### Cork Reindeer

Join us to create your own cork reindeer! All materials will be provided. Space is limited. Advance registration is required. Registration opens 12/1.

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for the full listing of movies please visit our website or call.

## Chair Yoga

every Tuesday at 10 am

## Project Healthy Bones

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Terrific Toddlers Story and Playtime  
every Wednesday from 10:30-11:30 am.

## One in Math

every Saturday from 11 am- 12 pm.

# AMERICAN LEGION AND VFW BREAKFASTS

These event is open to the public, so come out and enjoy a home cooked breakfast, and

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST – DECEMBER 21, 2025

Hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary  
8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

This month's special will be "Ham Steaks"!

Donations: Adults \$8.00

Seniors & Children \$7.00

Ages 5 & Under Free.

Take outs are available.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST - DECEMBER 27, 2025

Hosted by VFW#1397

8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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Seniors & Children \$6.00


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# LINDEN'S VETERANS DAY SERVICES

*Submitted by Marlene Michalko, VFW Post 1397 Auxiliary President*

Thank you to all that were in attendance at all of the Veterans Monument's throughout Linden for Veteran's Day.

Special Thanks to the VFW #1397 Post Members and Auxiliary Members, American Legion #102 Post, S.A.L., Honor Guard and Auxiliary Members, Catholic War Veterans, Martin Danowski Marine Corp, Polish American Legion Post 91, Mayor Armstead, Commissioner Joe Bodek, City Council Members, Chief Hart and the Citizens of Linden.

As always, we can always count on the Villani

Bus Company for always sending a bus for us. Hector Torres you were the "best"!

Thank You to Linden's Finest LPD for escorting us to each location.

Kudos to Carolyn Frees and Joan Konard for helping with taking pictures and sending them to me to post.

The American Legion Post 102 for being the host again this year.

A special "Thank You" to Pumpkin who volunteered her services to make sure we had coffee and danish prior to placing of the wreaths and prepping and cooking all the food for us when we returned.

Courtesy Photo

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# STUDENTS AND STAFF HONOR AMERICA'S HEROES ON VETERANS DAY

*Michael Watkis for Linden Public Schools*

From morning announcements to spirited assemblies, from handwritten letters to solemn wreath-laying ceremonies, Linden Public Schools overflowed with patriotism and pride as students, staff, and veterans came together districtwide to honor those who have served our nation. The day was a moving tapestry of red, white, and blue — a living lesson in gratitude, history, and community spirit.

At School No. 1, Principal David Walker, who earlier led a spirited patriotic ceremony inside the school gymnasium, guided a group of students outdoors into the crisp November air for a solemn moment of remembrance alongside Superintendent Dr. Atiya Y. Perkins, Mayor Derek Armstead, city officials, and veterans from American Legion Post 102. Together, they gathered at the century-old World War I monument on Wood Avenue and East Gibbons Street — exactly 100 years to the day since the memorial tablets were first unveiled in 1925 to honor the borough and township residents who served in the Great War. As the wreath was gently placed at the base of the monument, students stood shoulder to shoulder with veterans, linking past and present in a powerful tribute to sacrifice, service, and the enduring spirit of Linden.

Across Hudson River in New York City, the largest student-run military organization in the nation, the Linden High School NJROTC, marched proudly in the 106th Annual New York City Veterans Day Parade, the largest Veterans Day event in the United States. The parade commemorated the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, three service branches born during the Revolutionary War. Dressed in precision uniforms, Linden's cadets

represented their city and district with honor, embodying the discipline and dedication that define America's armed forces.

Back in Linden, at School No. 10, patriotism filled the auditorium as Principal Wayne Happle, staff, and families gathered for a stirring Veterans Day Assembly that blended music, poetry, and appreciation.

The program began with Superintendent Perkins' inspiring remarks to the lively elementary school children.

"When I think of the service you provided, it was service before self," she told the veterans — and continued with students performing beloved patriotic classics. From the fifth graders' powerful rendition of The Star-Spangled Banner to the kindergartners beaming as they sing You're a Grand Old Flag, every performance radiated pride and purpose. The highlight came when former teacher Mrs. Linda Burt-Moquele delivered an emotional solo of God Bless the USA, her voice lifting the room in unity and gratitude.

Among the honorees were five veterans from Atria Senior Living in Cranford, who joined other distinguished guests. They included World War II heroes Edmund Fiorelli and Thomas O'Neil, and local service members such as Officer Raul Jordan and Officer Tavares of the Linden Police Department. Each received a certificate of appreciation, presented by students who beamed with admiration as they shook the hands of living history.

At McManus Middle School, patriotism took the shape of compassion as students spent their lunch periods writing more than 200 handwritten "Thank You" cards to honor those who served. The colorful, sincere messages — destined for

delivery to the Menlo Park Veterans Home — carried words of gratitude and encouragement from the next generation to America's heroes. "Each card is a small way to show our appreciation for the people who served our country," said Brenda Kaneaster, science teacher at McManus. "We're proud of our students for spreading kindness and letting our veterans know they're valued."

From the youngest kindergartner singing with pride to the high school cadets marching in one of America's most storied parades, Veterans Day 2025 in Linden Public Schools was more than a commemoration, it was a community united in purpose.

As Superintendent Perkins reflected, "When our students honor veterans, they're learning the true meaning of service, sacrifice, and citizenship. This is how we teach history — by living it."



Courtesy Photos





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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
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