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TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY KICKS OFF HOLIDAY SEASON

On Friday, December 6, 2025, dozens of Kenilworth residents of all ages welcomed in the holiday season with

Santa, enjoying Christmas carols, cookies and other treats, as they waited for the official tree lighting at Borough Hall.



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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 2nd, 2026, and end May 4th, 2026. Five 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.

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

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VETERANS HONORED WITH PROCLAMATIONS



(above) On October 5, 2025, Commander Robert Jeans of VFW Post 2230, along with members of the Post, accepted proclamations from the Borough of Kenilworth which paid homage to Veterans Day 2025, and the 250th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, and the Navy. Presenting the proclamations was Mayor Linda Karlovitch.

Courtesy Photo

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Thursday, January 22, 2026

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Sunday, January 25, 2026

11:00 pm - 1:30 pm

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NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHORUS TO HOLD MID-YEAR AUDITIONS

The New Jersey Youth Chorus (NJC), a program of Wharton Arts, will hold mid-year auditions for select ensembles in January 2026 for singers in grades 3–12. Auditions provide young vocalists with the opportunity to join a vibrant choral community rooted in musical excellence, collaboration, and belonging. To register for an audition for NJYC's Primo Coro, Cor Amici, Sola Voce, and Camerata, visit NJYC.org.

"At NJYC, singing is just the beginning," said Trish Joyce, Founder and Director. "Through music, we cultivate connection, teamwork, and a deep sense of belonging, and our directors are excited to welcome new singers into our choral family."

Throughout the season, NJYC choristers participate in exceptional performance and educational opportunities at the local, regional, and national levels. Highlights this season include:

- Life of Song Festival in Washington, DC, for Sola Voce and Cor Amici
- "The Vocal Edge" Middle School Boys Festival
- "Together We Sing" Festival for Primo Coro
- Collaboration with the Maplewood Glee Club for Camerata
- Performance of the National Anthem for the New York Mets, featuring all NJYC choirs
- Choral Festival at Carnegie Hall for Camerata
- Sing a Mile High Festival in Denver, Colorado, for Sola Voce and Cor Amici

For more information, call (973) 998-5670 or



email info@njyc.org.

Wharton Arts' mission is to offer accessible, high quality performing arts education that sparks personal growth and builds inclusive communities.

Wharton Arts' vision is for a transformative performing arts education in an inclusive community to be accessible for everyone.

Wharton Arts is New Jersey's largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center serving nearly 2,000 students through a range of classes and ensembles. The 5 ensembles of the New Jersey

Youth Chorus, an auditioned choral ensemble program for students in grades 3–12, encourage a love and appreciation of choral music while nurturing personal growth and creative development. The 15 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Symphony, which serve over 500 students in grades 3–12 by audition, inspire young people to achieve musical excellence through high-level ensemble training and performance opportunities. Based in Paterson, the Paterson Music Project is an El Sistema-inspired program of Wharton Arts that uses music education as a vehicle for social action by empowering and inspiring young people to achieve their full potential through the community experience of ensemble learning and playing. From Pathways classes for young children to Lifelong Learning programs for adults, the Wharton Performing Arts School has a robust musical theater and drama program and offers both private and group classes for instruments and voice for all ages and all abilities. With the belief in the positive and unifying influence of music and that performing arts education should be accessible to all people regardless of their ability to pay, Wharton Arts offers need-based scholarships.

Wharton Arts is located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence, and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 12 counties. All of Wharton Arts' extraordinary teaching artists, faculty members, and conductors hold degrees in their teaching specialty and have been vetted and trained to enable our students to achieve their personal best.

HICKORY TREE CHORUS INVITES ACAPPELLA SINGERS TO OPEN AUDITIONS

The award-winning Hickory Tree Chorus is calling singers in the soprano, alto, and contralto ranges to join their harmonious sisterhood!

Performing in communities throughout northern and central New Jersey, the chorus enjoys singing recognizable popular songs – arranged in rich four-part harmony.

Fresh off their top-scoring performance at the 2025 Sweet Adelines Region 15 competition, the

chorus has earned a coveted spot in the Harmony Classic at the 78th Annual Sweet Adelines International Competition in Columbus, Ohio, October 2026. Now, they're building their sound for the world stage.

Open auditions will be held in Stirling between 6:30-7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in January 2026 and take less than 10 minutes (flexible scheduling is available). Singers are

asked to perform a brief acappella song of their choice. No experience required, just a love of singing and a desire to grow.

This is more than a chorus—it's a sisterhood, a mission, and a moment. Will your voice be part of it?

For details and to schedule your audition, email us at info@hickorytreechorus.org or call 908-377-1399.



(above) The award-winning Hickory Tree Chorus invites you to join the sisterhood. For details and to schedule your audition, email us at info@hickorytreechorus.org or call 908-377-1399.

Courtesy Photo

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

VFW Kenilworth Post 2230

On Veterans Day the entire 2nd grade classes walked up to the Kenilworth Veterans Center to take part in the VFW Kenilworth Post 2230 ceremony. The 2nd graders opened the event by stating the Pledge of Allegiance for everyone. The Pledge of Allegiance: A promise of loyalty to the United States, emphasizing unity, freedom, justice, and equality for all. They did an awesome job. They stayed for the entire program and were very well behaved and waved their flags proudly. The Brearley High School Choir sang the Star Spangled Banner and God Bless America.

Courtesy Photos



(above) Miss Collelli and Mrs Caplanis 's class



(above) Principal Bubnowski along with 2nd graders Giuliana Dercole, Bronx Bruno, Frank Alisio, Haven Tovar and Alex Portillo present Commander Jeans with letters for the Veterans



(above) Melissa Stryker, and Mrs. Stacie Bussiere, 2nd Grade Class.



(above) Mrs. Miller's 2nd grade class



(above) Director Jessica Paiva with High School choir members



(above) Mrs. Bussiere's class



(above) Mr. Mills class 2nd Grade Class

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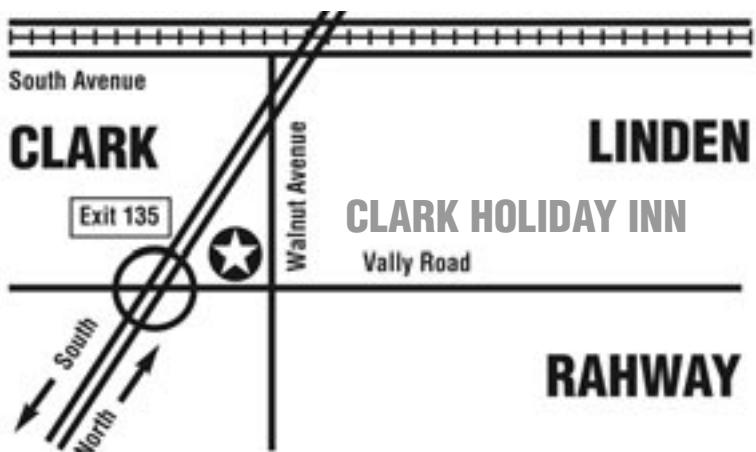
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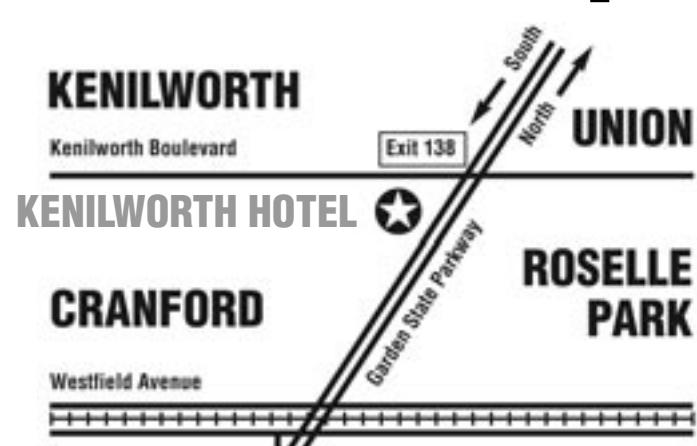


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BROOK ARTS CENTER ANNOUNCES IT 2ND SPEAKEASY SOIREE AND SILENT AUCTION.

The historic Brook Arts Center is proud to announce its Second Annual Speakeasy Soirée & Silent Auction, Friday, January 23, 2026, at 7:00 PM. This Roaring '20s-themed evening promises an unforgettable night of glitz, glamour, entertainment, and support for one of Somerset County New Jersey's, historic landmarks.

Guests will be transported back to the golden age as they enjoy live music, period-inspired entertainment, and a lavish buffet.

The evening's highlight is a silent auction featuring more than 100 exclusive items, including a cruise getaway, a Bradford Portraits gift certificate with a private photo session, a 20-inch framed wall portrait and luxury hotel stay, four VIP tickets to Meadowlands Racing with dinner and winner's circle photos, designer handbags, sports memorabilia, dining and spa packages and so much more.

Tickets are \$50 per person or \$80 per couple and include buffet dining, live music, live

entertainment, and a cash bar.

Attendees are encouraged to dress in their finest 1920s-inspired attire to fully embrace the spirit of the evening.

The Speakeasy Soirée is the Brook Arts Center's largest fundraiser of the year.

As a fully volunteer-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Brook Arts Center relies on community support to continue with the preservation and restoration of the facility and its mission of providing high-quality entertainment, inspiring creativity, fostering community partnerships, and nurturing education and growth through the arts.

Tickets are on sale now through January 16, 2026.

To purchase tickets or learn more, visit www.brookarts.org.

Reserve your tickets today and be part of a glamorous night that helps keep the arts alive in our community.



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

January 5, 12 & 26

Bingo games for children ages 3 & up

Lap Sit

Tuesday at 10:30am – 10:50am

January 13, 20 & 27

Interactive stories and songs for ages 0 – 2 years

PJ Story Time

Tuesdays at 6:30pm – 7:00pm

January 6, 13, 20 & 27

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

January 7 & 21

Interactive stories and activities for ages 2 – 3

Saturday Story Circle

Saturday at 10:30am – 11:00am

January 10

Interactive stories, songs and play for ages 0 – 4

Fun Friday Crafts

Fridays at 3:30pm – 4:00pm

Ages: 4 – 9

January 9: Hot Air Balloon Craft

January 23: Pie Day Craft

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.

Boogie Woogie Babies

10:30am – 11:00am on Tuesday

January 6

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

Lego At The Library

3:30pm – 4:00pm on Thursdays

January 8, 15 & 22

Ages: 4 – 12. Build with Lego bricks and design your own creations. Registration is not required.

Read To A Dog

4:00pm – 5:00pm on Tuesday, January 13

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.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Readers may register for a 15-minute visit.

Yoga Story Time

10:30am – 11am on Wednesday, January 14

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.

Good Tyme String Band

10:30am – 11am on Wednesday, January 28

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

Celebrate Ramadan

4-5pm on Thursday January 29

Ages 5 - 12

Join us for a special event storytime and craft to celebrate Ramadan. Learn about how Ramadan is celebrated and why it's an important holiday.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Kenilworth residents may register beginning January 22.

Out of town residents may register beginning January 27.

ADULT PROGRAMS

"Weave with us"

Monday, January 5, 2026

5-7:30pm.

Join us for weaving at the Library. Join us and enjoy the company of fellow weavers. Bring your portable loom! Beginners welcome. This event is open house style.

"Paper Pals"

Tuesday, January 6 & 20 at 2pm

Monday, January 12 at 6:00 – 7:30pm for our card making group. You don't need any paper crafting experience to join the fun.

"Yarnies"

Thursdays, January, 8, 15 & 22 at 2-4pm and January 29 from 6-8pm.

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.

English Conversations For All

Monday, January 26th at 5:00pm – 7:00pm

If you want to learn English or practice speaking the language, please join us for a free two-hour session on the last Monday of each month. This program is geared towards adults.

"Spin - A - Yarn"

Tuesday, January 27 at 5:00pm – 7:30pm

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.

BOROUGH THANKS COCCCHIA FAMILY

The Borough of Kenilworth extends its heartfelt appreciation to Eleanor Cocchia for the generous donation of her family's much-loved holiday sleigh, now proudly displayed outside Borough Hall.

This beautiful piece adds a meaningful and festive touch to our holiday display, and its presence has already been warmly embraced by residents of all ages. Eleanor's generosity reflects the spirit of community, tradition, and pride that makes Kenilworth truly special.

We are grateful for her thoughtful contribution and for sharing a cherished part of her family's history with the Borough.

Wishing all residents a joyful and safe holiday season.

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Qty: 3,300
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Zips: 07927, 07981

Qty: 3,500
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Qty: 18,000
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LEADER**
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**MADISON
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NJ

**MORRIS
TOWNSHIP
TIMES**
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3

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6

TOWNS

9

TOWNS

12

TOWNS

15

TOWNS

18

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21

TOWNS

24

TOWNS

27

TOWNS

30

TOWNS

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460

560

600

660

700

800

900

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560

600

700

800

900

1000

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1200

1300

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900

1000

1300

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760

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STATE CANCELS LEGAL NOTICE MANDATE

We rarely ever hear about the government reducing taxes but it happened this year when New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy eliminated the mandate that legal notices must be printed in a newspaper.

The antiquated mandate is decades old and the cost for the advertising was paid for by public funds from municipalities, counties, school districts, and independent authorities. It was a lucrative business for the publications and more recently the majority of their revenue. Without the mandate the fear in the newspaper industry was that the publications relying on the legal advertising income will not survive.

In some cases the majority of content in the newspaper had been the legal ads. In question was the criteria for the mandate, i.e., were the publications meeting the required numbers of

paid subscriptions, and circulation.

The idea of doing away with the mandate, though practical, was considered political poison. No lawmaker wanted to be deemed responsible as the cause for newspapers' closures and people losing their jobs. During the Governor Christi administration the Star Ledger warned that doing away with the mandates would cause 250 weekly newspapers to close.

What brought about the change is a successful lawsuit filed by the County of Warren which named the Star Ledger and Daily Record as defendants. The suit may have been the last straw in the Ledger's decision to stop printing the newspaper in January of 2025.

Local governments will now be required to publish their legal notices on their websites.

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