

SHOWCASING A STRONG COLLEGE-GOING CULTURE

Elizabeth Public Schools

Elmora School No. 12 hosted an AVID Showcase on Thursday, March 19, welcoming over 35 educators from across New Jersey, including representatives from EPS schools, to observe the school's schoolwide implementation of the AVID system.

The event began with a warm welcome from student ambassadors, who escorted guests to the Music Room for a meet-and-greet session. Presenters included Cianna Debills, AVID Northeastern Implementation Strategist; Aimee Saluccio, EPS AVID Coordinator and College and Career Readiness Advisor; Principal Melissa Kulick; Vice Principal Marisa Meirinho; AVID Coordinator Jennifer DeFilippis; and School Guidance Counselor Kristina Pedulla. The team delivered a comprehensive presentation highlighting School 12's AVID journey, which began in 2013, and emphasized the development of a strong college-going culture. A college-going culture (CGC) refers to an environment within a school or community that actively promotes and supports the pursuit of higher education among students.

Following the presentation, the School 12 chorus performed the school song, "Through the Halls of Elmora," under the direction of chorus teacher Ms. Sara Edreira-Fidalgo. Guests also experienced student performances as part of the Women's History Month Living Museum, showcasing students' research, creativity, and presentation skills, which embed all aspects of WCOR strategies.

Student ambassadors then guided visitors through classrooms from kindergarten through eighth grade. Guests observed teachers and students actively engaged in AVID's WICOR strategies (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading). Classroom highlights included philosophical chairs, Socratic seminars, collaborative study groups, and team-building activities, all demonstrating high levels of student engagement and critical



Courtesy Photo

thinking.

Visitors expressed admiration for the students' focus, effective note-taking strategies, and their ability to clearly articulate their thinking during discussions such as philosophical chairs and Socratic seminars.

Elmora School no. 12 takes pride in ensuring all of their students receive an excellent education that is preparing them for high school, college and career readiness.



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Michael D Boll, NJVN President

For the past 10 years the New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) has proudly marched on Memorial Day parades alongside our troops and veterans to honor those we have lost. While these events are deeply meaningful, our mission extends far beyond parades and ceremonies.

NJVN is a dedicated team of volunteers committed to actively reaching veterans in need and connecting them with life-changing—and often life-saving—resources. We have built a strong, statewide network focused on improving the quality of life for our veterans.

Our support includes essential services such as food, clothing, personal items, and transportation. However, our primary focus is on outreach programs and recreational therapy events designed to support mental health and overall

well-being.

Veteran mental health remains one of the most critical challenges facing our community. Tragically, veteran suicide continues to be an ongoing crisis, with numbers that have remained steady or increased each year. This is why outreach, connection, and mentorship are at the heart of everything we do.

We are always eager to collaborate with organizations that share our mission. Most importantly, we are in need of dedicated volunteers who can support our efforts on a regular basis.

If you are interested in joining our team, please contact us: Email:

NJVN1775@gmail.com;

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FREE LAWN CONCERT, FEATURING CMJ JAZZ BAND - MAY 30

The Salem Roadhouse Café, together with Townley Presbyterian Church are proud to present the CMJ Jazz Band on Saturday, May 30 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Admission is free. The show will be located at Townley Presbyterian Church, 829 Salem Rd, Union, NJ in the front courtyard facing Salem Road. A free will offering will be accepted to be used for the church's Blessing Room, a place where needed items find their way into the hands of needful people. The Blessing Room operates in coordination with local and county governments and agencies to put clothing and small household items needed most by families and individuals.

Returning to the Roadhouse Café and Townley Church, the CMJ JAZZ BAND is an energetic, dynamic band based in New Jersey that blends Smooth Jazz, Traditional Jazz and Hip Hop in a creative way to captivate audiences of all ages. Known for their stellar musicianship and intimate relationship with audiences, the band is blowing people away with their energy, creativity, polish, and lyrical word rhymes. People attending their concerts reflect on the fun they had dancing, singing, and interacting with the band.

Should inclement weather happen on the show date, the concert will be moved indoors to the church sanctuary.

About Salem Roadhouse Café

It's not "church music." It's music music. Folks who've come to the Salem Roadhouse Café know that it's a clean, safe place for people who enjoy listening to live music — in a world otherwise filled with clubs and bars. The Roadhouse has always offered its stage to local and independent mainstream musicians. Jazz, rock, folk, and other groups have performed. What's the common thread? They're all great musicians playing the kind of music people like to hear. There's no message, just music.

Now in its 18th year of operation, the Roadhouse was started in 2008 by members of Townley Presbyterian Church with a grant from the Presbytery of Elizabeth. Hey — that's why we're located where we are, 829 Salem Rd, Union, NJ. The Roadhouse operates as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. That's its social mission.


But the many musicians who've played the Salem Roadhouse Café see it as a solid performance venue. They love it because of its special intimacy and great audiences. They say people here "really listen." Ask any of the musicians you meet here — they love to play the Roadhouse, and they want to come back often.

The Salem Roadhouse Café has raised funds for many carefully chosen charities. They include: The Presbytery of Elizabeth E-port Center, Center For Hope Hospice, Community Food Bank, Monarch Housing, Angel Paws Animal Rescue, National MS Society, Haiti

Disaster Relief, Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief, The Union County YWCA Domestic Violence Program, Making It Possible To End Homelessness, Camp Johnsonburg, The Music Institute, and others. Many thousands of dollars have been raised for these deserving charities.



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CUB SCOUT PACK 23 PINEWOOD DERBY RESULTS

Cub Scout Pack 23 held its annual Pinewood Derby at St. Genevieve's Church on March 22. Working with a parent or other adult, each Scout shaped a block of wood into a race car, painted and decorated it, and then competed with it against other Cubs on a 30-foot long 6-lane track. There was a lot of excitement and enthusiasm among the Cub Scouts who participated!

The Best Design award, as chosen by his fellow Cub Scouts, went to Gavin Jones. Congratulations to all!

THE OVERALL WINNERS FOR THE PACK:

1st place – Gavin Jones

2nd place – Victoria Gonzalez

3rd place – Harry Wagstaff

If you know a child who is anywhere between a Kindergartener and a high school senior, please encourage them to get in on the fun of Scouting. The Scouting program instills character, good citizenship and physical fitness in youth through outdoor activities such as campouts and hikes, involvement in community activities, and just

plain FUN!

Cub Scout Pack 23 provides activities and training for boys and girls in Kindergarten through fifth grades. Boy Scout Troop 23 is for boys who are at least 11 years old or graduated from the fifth grade. New members are welcome at any time, all year round.

For more details, please contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at (908) 451-1948 or webfootroop@gmail.com.




(above) The Cub Scouts of Pack 23 at St. Genevieve's Church built racing cars out of blocks of wood and raced against each other on February 22 at the exciting annual Pinewood Derby.


Courtesy Photo

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FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY IN ROSELLE PARK, JUNE 4-7, 2026

The Church of the Assumption's annual St. Anthony Italian Feast returns for its 26th year! The Feast will feature rides, games, live entertainment, homemade cooking, food vendors, a beer and wine garden, and a SUPER 50/50 drawn Sunday, June 7th, at pm! The Feast, located on the Church grounds at 113 Coolidge Place, Roselle Park, NJ, begins on Thursday, June 4 and runs through Sunday, June 7. Feast hours: Thurs 6-10pm, Friday 6-10pm, Saturday 5-10pm and Sunday 2-7pm. On Sunday, June 7, there will be a 12 noon mass honoring St. Anthony, followed by a procession through Roselle Park beginning at 12:45pm.

THE FOLLOWING MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT IS BOOKED FOR THE FEAST:

Thursday, June 4:
Paper Statues and Deadlinez
(Valencia School of Music), 8pm-10pm
Friday, June 5:
Valentied, 730p-830p, Serenphoria, 9p-10p
Saturday, June 6:
Diamonds in Jupiter, 7pm to 10pm
Sunday, June 7:
Simply the Best, 4pm-7pm
Additional entertainment will be announced on the Church of the Assumption website as acts are confirmed.

Pay-One-Price Unlimited Ride wristbands are available for opening day, Thursday, June 4. Wristbands will be sold at the Feast for \$35. Visit the Church of the Assumption website at <http://www.assumptionrp.com/> for more information and sponsorship opportunities. If you would like to volunteer at the Feast of St. Anthony, scan here:



(above) Those interesting volunteering can use the QR code for more information.




Annual 2026 Feast of St. Anthony

Church of the Assumption • 113 Coolidge Place • Roselle Park, NJ

Four Days of Faith, Family, Friends and Fun

50/50s Rides Games Music Homemade Food

Thursday, June 4	Friday, June 5	Saturday, June 6	Sunday, June 7
 Valencia School of Music Paper Statues & Deadlinez 8:00pm-10:00pm	 Valentied 7:30pm-8:30pm SERENPHORIA 9:00pm-10:pm	 Diamonds in Jupiter 7:00pm-10:00pm	 Simply the Best 4:00pm-7:00pm

A special thank you to the Borough of Roselle Park for supporting our Feast!

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A simple \$5 donation provides connections to veterans and their families in our communities. One small act of gratitude goes a long way - Help us refill what they've given.

100% of all donations support our local Berkeley Heights VFW Post 6259 and surrounding communities

VFW Post 6259 Berkeley Heights NJ

It was a sunny day when the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade returned to the streets of Union Township on Saturday, March 14. Organizations marching in the parade, including Irish groups, police and fire departments, elected officials, school bands and pipe and drum bands, and Scouting units, were cheered on by tens of thousands of people lining Morris Avenue and Stuyvesant Avenue.

Boy Scout Troop 23, sponsored by St. Genevieve's Roman Catholic Church in Elizabeth, has been marching in the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade since 1998, a year after the parade was first held. They were

back again this year, joined by Cub Scouts from Pack 23. Wearing their iconic yellow sweatshirts, they were led by a banner depicting Troop 23's mascot, a duck named Webby. Webby is equipped and ready to hike or camp, at any time and in any weather.

The Scouting program has instilled character, good citizenship and physical fitness in the youth of Elmora and beyond for over 60 years. Cub Scout Pack 23 and Boy Scout Troop 23 provide activities and training for children of all faiths, from Kindergarten through high school graduation. For more details, please contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at (908) 451-1948 or webfootroop@gmail.com.



(above) Boy Scout Troop 23 and Cub Scout Pack 23 of Elizabeth add color to Morris Avenue in Union during the 2025 Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 15. Brandon and Victoria lead the Scouts with the iconic yellow Webby the Webfoot Duck banner.

Courtesy Photo

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Feast of St. Anthony

Church of the Assumption • 113 Coolidge Place • Roselle Park, NJ

Four Days of Faith, Family, Friends and Fun

50/50s	Rides	Games	Music	Homemade Food
Thursday, June 4	Friday, June 5	Saturday, June 6	Sunday, June 7	
<p>Valencia School of Music Paper Statues & Deadlinez 8:00pm-10:00pm</p>	<p>Valentied 7:30pm-8:30pm SERENPHORIA 9:00pm-10:pm</p>	<p>Diamonds in Jupiter 7:00pm-10:00pm</p>	<p>Simply the Best 4:00pm-7:00pm</p>	

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ADULT PROGRAMS

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Tuesday, May 5 & 26, and Thursday,
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The Rummikub Club

Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday at 10 am

Join us for a friendly game!

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Mahjong

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Adult English Book Club

Tuesday, May 5 at 11 am

Join our Book Club meeting and engage in a lively discussion about our latest book.

Yoga for Beginners

Every Wednesday at 10 am

Join us for a relaxing yoga class for beginners.

Walk-ins are welcome

Creative Knots with Pamela

Thursday, May 7, 14, & 21 at 10 am

Discover macrame to create unique handcrafted pieces for your home and wardrobe.

ESL with Fritz

Every Thursday from 6 pm to 7:15 pm

Practice speaking English in a friendly and relaxed environment! Gain confidence, improve your vocabulary, and meet new people while enjoying fun, everyday conversations.

Adult Bingo

Thursday, May 7

& Tuesday, May 26 at 11 am

Join us at the Elmora Branch Library for a fun-filled game of Bingo!

Stitch & Mending

Monday, May 18 at 10 am

and Wednesday, May 20 at 5 pm

Come to Elmora Library to mend your clothing.

Bring the article you need help with, and assistance will be provided.

Crochet with Sol

Tuesday, May 26, Wednesday, May 27,

& Thursday, May 28 at 12 pm

Learn the tips and tricks with Ms. Sol! She will teach you everything you need to know to get started.

The Edible Book Club

Wednesday, May 27 at 1 pm

Welcome to The Edible Book Club, where each month, we explore a cookbook and bring its recipes to life. Join us to share experiences and enjoy delicious food. Come for the books and stay for the bites!

Spanish Book Club for Adults

Wednesday, May 27 at 2 pm

Join Martha as she hosts a monthly book discussion for Spanish-speaking adults!

Enchanted Pages Book Club

Thursday, May 28 at 4 pm

Join our Enchanted Pages Book Club for magical stories, wonders, and fun chats with great vibes. This month's pick is "An Academy for Liars" by Alexis Henderson

America 250: A Musical Journey

Thursday, May 28 at 10:15 am

This program explores how music has helped tell America's story - from its earliest roots to today.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

at Elmora Branch Library

Junior Chess Club (Ages: 7-12)

Every Friday at 4 pm

Don't miss out on our Chess Club for Kids! We welcome beginners!

Storytime at Green Acres Park

Saturday, May 2 at 11 am

Join Ms. Martha for storytime and craft at the park! No registration required

Star Wars Scavenger Hunt

Monday, May 4 to Saturday, May 9

(All Day)

Can you find all the Star Wars images in the Children's area? May the 4th be with you!

CodeForward

Every Monday from 5 pm to 6:30 pm

At CodeForward, we're opening doors to the future e offering free coding education to kids who are ready to create, build, and lead.

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Mother's Day Storytime

Wednesday, May 6 at 5 pm

Join Ms. Martha for a Mother's Day story, followed by a craft.

Toddlers

World - Friday, May 8 & 22 at 11 am

An hour of fun songs to sing, music, and playtime.

Painted with Love for Mom

Saturday, May 9 at 11 am

Create a special painting for Mother's Day!

Bubbles aRe Us

Saturday, May 16 at 1 pm

Located on 640 3rd Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ Join Ms. Martha for songs, stories, and crafts with LOADS of fun! This storytime will feature stories in English and Spanish for the whole family. FREE PIZZA!!!

Memorial Day Scavenger Hunt

Monday, May 18 to Friday, May 22

Can you find all the images hidden in the Children's area? Get a small prize from our treasure chest when you complete the hunt!

Mayor J. Christian Bollwage and The City of Elizabeth Present the

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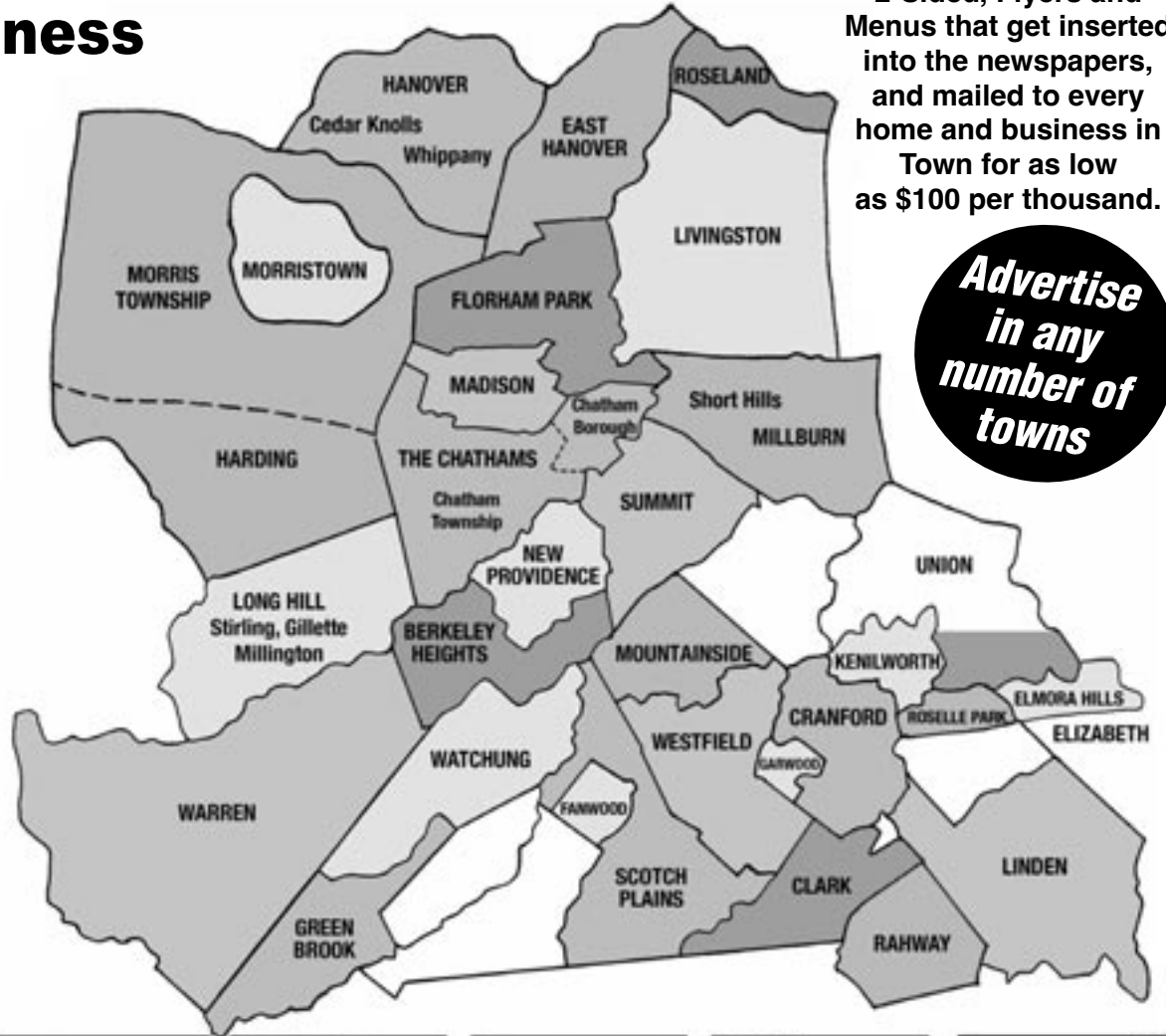
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Long Hill LEADER NJ Qty: 3,500 Zips: 07933, 07946, 07980	MADISON MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,300 Zip: 07940	Short Hills MILLBURN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 8,200 Zips: 07041, 07078	MORRIS TOWNSHIP TIMES NJ Qty: 13,500 Zip: 07960, Harding 07976	MORRISTOWN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 7,000 Zip: 07960	MOUNTAINSIDE NJ VIEW Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07092	New Providence NEWS NJ Qty: 5,100 Zip: 07974	OUR TOWN Rahway, NJ Qty: 13,100 Zip: 07065
Life in Roseland NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07068	ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY Qty: 5,600 Zip: 07204	Scotch Plains NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07076	Summit NJ & Times Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	Spirit of UNION NJ Qty: 7,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	WARREN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,500 Zip: 07059	Watchung Post NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	Westfield NJ MONTHLY Qty: 12,000 Zip: 07090

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Units (wide x High) Size											
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4 Units 3.25"x8" or 6.5"x4"	240	560	900	1000	1300	1600	1700	1800	1900	2000	2100
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
18 FULL PAGE 10"x14"	500	1200	1800	2200	2500	2800	3000	3300	3600	3900	4300
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FREE VETERANS INITIATIVE AT THE YMCA

Last year, The Gateway Family YMCA launched a new Veterans Wellness Initiative, offered at the Wellness Center Branch in Union, NJ and at the Elizabeth Branch in Elizabeth, NJ. Beginning this Spring, the free Veterans Wellness Initiative program will continue with new sessions in Union and Elizabeth and will expand to include an additional session at the Rahway Branch, 1564 Irving Street, Rahway. Each program will meet weekly for in-person exercise and wellness, led by a wellness coach, as well as virtually, online to discuss their health in mind, body and spirit.

Open to active military, military veterans, and their spouse or partner, the free 12-week Veterans Wellness Initiative program provides participants access to health and wellness opportunities, as well as meaningful social connection with those who share the bond of military service. Participants benefit from 24-hour access to the YMCA360 virtual platform, an adult couple membership to the Y during the 12-week session, and an additional six-month individual adult

membership following successful completion of the program.

“I have seen first-hand the impact this program has had on our veterans and their families,” shared Susan Butler, Director of Community Wellness. “I am excited to continue to expand the Veterans Wellness Initiative throughout our YMCA branches.”

The Veterans Wellness Initiative began as a way to create community and wellness opportunities for veterans. During the 12-week course, classes will focus on balance, nutrition, tai-chi, mental health, working out with tension bands, stretching and the circuit course, as well as other weight machines. Small group discussions will build bonds and provide support. To join the interest list for participation in the program, please visit: tgfymca.org/contact-us

To learn more about The Gateway Family YMCA, visit tgfymca.org or contact the Wellness Center Branch 908-349-9622 or veterans@tgfymca.org for more information.



(above) The Gateway Family YMCA has expanded their Veterans Wellness Initiative.

Courtesy Photo



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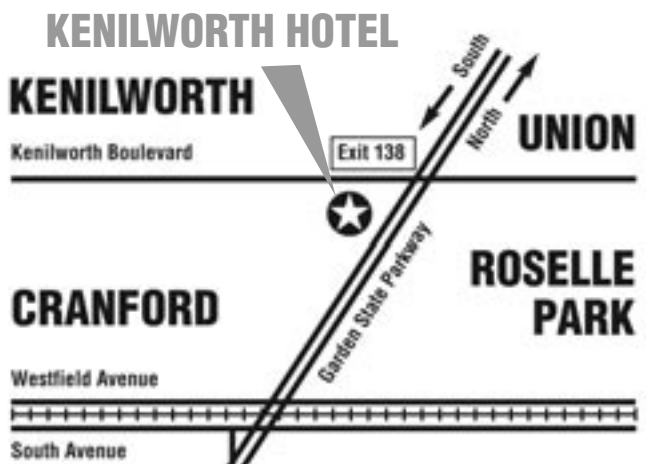
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