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## ZAIRE KIMBROUGH RECEIVES 2026 UNSUNG HERO AWARD

### *Linden Public Schools*

Resilience often grows in the quiet moments when no one is watching.

For Linden High School senior Zaire Kimbrough, that resilience has defined his journey. After enduring the profound loss of his mother at a young age, Kimbrough transformed personal hardship into motivation, excelling in the classroom while emerging as a thoughtful leader among his peers.

On March 11, that quiet determination was recognized on a larger stage when he was honored as a 2026 Unsung Hero during the Union County School Boards Association Unsung Hero Awards Ceremony.

The annual Unsung Hero Award, presented in partnership with the New Jersey School Boards Association, celebrates students who make meaningful contributions to their schools and communities even though they may not always receive traditional recognition. These students are known for their perseverance, character, and ability to uplift those around them.

For Linden High School, Kimbrough represents exactly that spirit.

During the ceremony, Principal Charles Koonce praised Kimbrough as a student whose strength and character have shaped his high school journey.

“After experiencing the loss of his mother at a young age, Zaire has shown remarkable resilience,” Koonce told the gathering. “He has channeled that strength into his academic endeavors and development as a student and future leader. Zaire truly values the importance of never giving up and being his brother’s keeper.”

Koonce described Kimbrough as a personable student with natural leadership qualities and a commitment to supporting those around him.

Throughout his time at Linden High School, Kimbrough has demonstrated both academic dedication and a strong sense of purpose. He currently holds an 89.5 GPA, an A average, and



*(above) Linden High School senior Zaire Kimbrough honored with Unsung Hero Award*

Courtesy Photo

has earned a place on the Principal’s Honor Roll every year since the 10th grade.

Beyond the classroom, he has also developed leadership skills as an active participant in the Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy, a national program that empowers students to become service-minded leaders in their schools and communities.

Teachers and administrators say Kimbrough’s strength lies not only in his academic success but also in his character. Known as a thoughtful problem solver and a student with a kind heart, he has consistently demonstrated the perseverance needed to overcome life’s challenges while remaining focused on his future.

Despite the hardships he experienced growing up, Kimbrough has remained determined to build a path forward, embracing every opportunity to learn, grow, and lead.

Looking ahead, he has been accepted to William Paterson University and New Jersey City University, and plans to major in marketing.

The ceremony brought together educators, school leaders, and community members from across Union County to celebrate students whose strength of character and quiet leadership inspire others.

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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.

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## TIGER PRIDE WELLNESS DAY

### Linden Public Schools

The return from Spring Recess did not feel routine. It felt focused. Energized. Together.

On Friday, April 10, students and staff across Linden Public Schools came back on a half-day schedule after Spring Recess. Instead of a quiet ease-in, the district turned the early dismissal into Tiger Pride Wellness Day, a shared experience that brought the district's mission to life: empowering every student to reach their full potential through diversity, instructional excellence, and a deep commitment to the whole child.

### MOVEMENT, ENERGY, AND OPPORTUNITY

Across the district, movement led the way. In gymnasiums, basketballs echoed off hardwood,

volleyballs arced over nets, and soccer games unfolded in bursts of speed and laughter. In hallways and outdoor play areas, students rotated through relay games and light fitness activities. On green spaces and blacktops, they ran, skipped, and played under open skies.

Students and staff wore Tiger gear and Linden's black and orange, turning every corridor into a living stream of school pride. Teachers and students stretched and danced together, creating moments that were both joyful and unifying. These were not just activities; they were opportunities in motion where students built confidence, collaborated with peers, and practiced skills that extend well beyond the classroom.

Photos by Linden Public Schools





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# LINDEN POLICE DETECTIVE JAMES EDGAR HONORED ON HIS RETIREMENT



(above, l-r) James Edgar and David Hart, Chief of Linden Police Department

## The City of Linden

The City of Linden gathered on March 31, 2026 to honor Police Detective James Edgar as he officially retired after a distinguished 25-year career with the Linden Police Department.

Throughout his two and a half decades of service—most recently as a vital member of the Narcotics Bureau—Detective Edgar has shown

unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our residents. His professionalism and expertise have left an indelible mark on the force.

As he hangs up the badge, he is looking forward to well-deserved quality time with his wife and two children. Mayor Derek Armstead and the entire City of Linden thank you, Detective Edgar, for your sacrifice and service.



Photos by City of Linden

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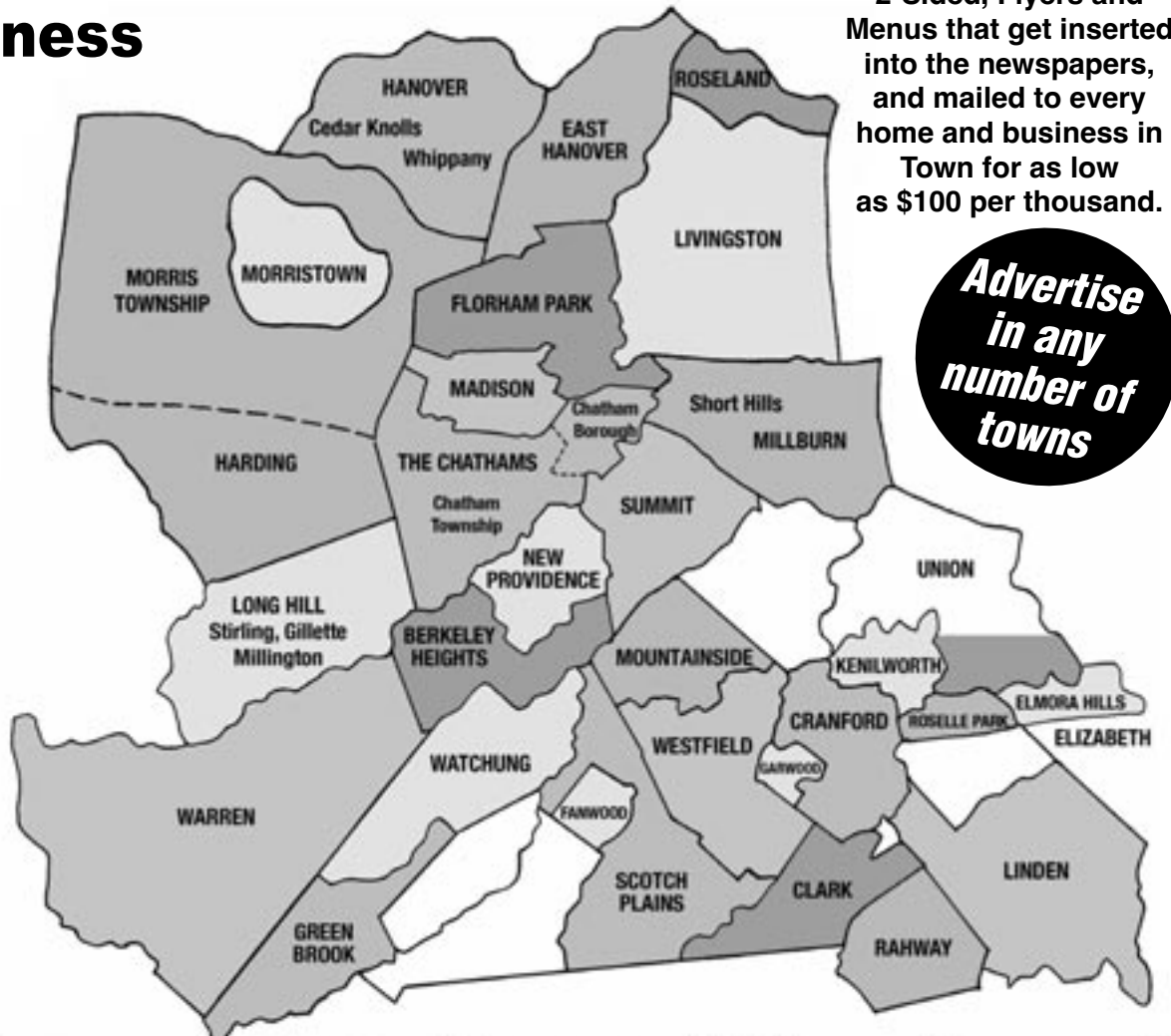
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## MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES - MAY 25

### Linden Veterans Council

On Memorial Day – Monday, May 26, 2025, the Linden Veterans Council will be honoring “Our Veteran’s.” Residents are encouraged to attend the Veterans Grave and Wreath Placement Ceremony.

The American Legion Post 102 will be the host post. In attendance will also be the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1397, Marine Corp League, Catholic War Veterans and Vietnam Veterans of America.

### SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

- 8:30 Assemble at Linden American Legion Post #102 @ 112 West Elizabeth Avenue Linden, for Coffee, Tea, Juice and Danish. Phone number: 908-862-0276.
- 9:00 All participants leave Post #102 parking lot with escort.
- 9:10 VFW #1397, Pennsylvania Railroad Avenue, VFW Monument and All Veterans
- 9:20 St Theresa Church, Catholic War Veterans Monument.
- 9:30 Veterans Memorial Park, South Wood Avenue. All Veterans Monument
- 9:40 Monument on Lower Road, Andy Beno Memorial Park
- 9:50 Marine League Building, South Wood Avenue Martin Danowski Veterans Monument
- 10:00 Melnyk Park, 11th Street, Marine Corp. League and Local Neighborhood Veterans Monument.
- 10:10 Rosedale Cemetery, Route 1, Linden, American Legion Veterans Circle
- 10:20 8th Ward Monument, Park & Grier Avenue, All Veterans Monument
- 10:30 Rosehill Cemetery, Linden Avenue, VFW Veterans Circle
- 10:40 Farawell Park, Ziegler Avenue, Marine Corp League and Local Neighborhood Veterans Monument
- 10:55 (2 stops) School #1, Curtis & Wood Avenue and Gibbons & Wood Avenue, All Veterans Monuments
- 11:10 Wilson Park, Summit Terrace, Purple Heart and Local Neighborhood Veterans Monument
- 11:25 Knosky Park, Stiles & Elm St. Marine Corp League and Local Neighborhood Monument
- 11:40 Linden City Hall, North Wood Avenue, WWII, Korea & Vietnam Monuments
- 12:00 Return to American Legion Post #102 on Elizabeth Avenue, American Legion Monument and All Veterans

The above schedule could vary. Residents are invited to meet the Veterans entourage at a specific Monument listed above or to join the Veterans escorted entourage from the American Legion Hall to visit all the City Monuments.



# 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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For More Information:  
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# Fiddler on the Roof

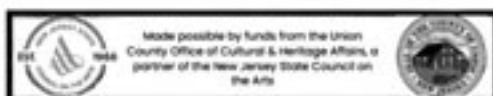
Book by JOSEPH STEIN Music by JERRY BOCK Lyrics by SHELDON HARNICK

**Fri/Sat. May 1,2,8,15,16-8pm**

**Sat. May 9/Sun. May 10+17-2pm**

**ASL Interpreted Performance Sun. May 17**

78 Winans Ave  
Cranford, NJ



[cdctheatre.org](http://cdctheatre.org)  
908-276-7611

Based on Sholem Aleichem stories by special permission of Arnold Perl Produced on the New York stage by Harold Prince Portions of the original choreography reproduced by Emma Taylor Schwartz Fiddler On The Roof is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.  
[www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

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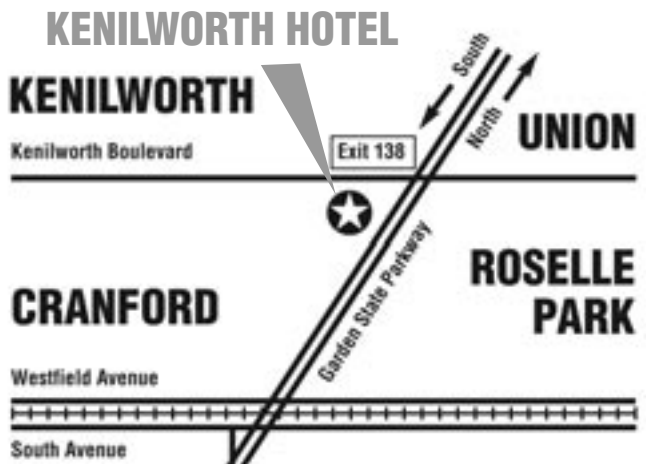
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**MAY 4th to 8th**

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