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KENILWORTH LIFE

Published by Renna Media, LLC. On-line at RennaMedia.com

Issue 219 • June 2026



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PACEY THE HAPPY HEART COMES TO TOWN

The Aliver Foundation

The Aliver Foundation is bringing an important message to children through its book, Pacey The Happy Heart, while continuing its work to improve cardiac emergency preparedness through the placement of AED equipment in outdoor recreation spaces, public education, and mental health support for cardiac arrest survivors and their families.

Founder and President Jill A. Pall, a cardiac arrest survivor and Union County resident, recently spoke at the April meeting of the New Jersey Retired Police and Firemen's Association Union and Somerset Counties Local 3 at the Kenilworth VFW, where she shared her story and highlighted the foundation's work.

Pall discussed the outdoor AED equipment bundle consisting of a highly visible, bright yellow, all weather, climate controlled enclosure and AED that the foundation donated to DiMario Park in Kenilworth, as well as a story time reading of Pacey The Happy Heart led by Teen Ambassador Dylan Mason the evening prior at the Kenilworth Public Library.

The Greater Union Township Chamber of Commerce underwrote 25 books and the New Jersey Retired Police and Firemen's Association Local 3 underwrote 60 books. This effort was spearheaded by Retired Kenilworth Police Chief, Kenneth Grady. The books will be donated to all of the elementary schools in Union County and to Children's Specialized Hospital. Because of individual underwriting, all libraries in Union County will receive donated books from The Aliver Foundation.

Designed for children ages 4 to 8, Pacey The Happy Heart is an interactive talk-back picture book designed to spark conversation, build confidence, encourage healthy habits, and help little hearts feel safe around helpers in their community. The book introduces Pacey, a happy heart who works hard every day and makes it easier to talk with children about their feelings, health, and helpers in a calm, age-appropriate way. As children read along, Pacey asks simple questions that invite them to answer out loud, making story time playful, personal, and memorable. The story explores everyday ways to care for the heart, including sleeping well, drinking water, staying active, and enjoying fruits and vegetables. It also gently introduces an important message for children to call 9-1-1 in an emergency and helps them feel comfortable knowing that helpers like firefighters, police officers, EMTs, doctors, and nurses are ready to respond.

The Aliver Foundation invites individuals, businesses, and community organizations to support this effort. Books can be



Courtesy photos

(above) Jill A. Pall, President of The Aliver Foundation with Donna Steinmetz, from Chamber of Commerce (left) and Kenneth Grady, Retired Chief of Police (right)

purchased on Amazon and all profits go toward the purchase of outdoor AED equipment for public recreation spaces. Supporters can also underwrite books, which the foundation will send to schools, libraries, pediatricians, cardiologists, and hospitals for children to enjoy.

The Aliver Foundation raises awareness and funds to place outdoor AED equipment in recreation spaces while also providing crucial resources and educational opportunities to individuals and communities. Its goal is to save lives and help hearts by increasing the number of highly visible, bright yellow, all weather, climate controlled AED equipment bundles in outdoor recreation spaces, educating about cardiac arrest statistics, CPR, and AED usage through digital messaging and in-person events, and offering resources and support to sudden cardiac arrest survivors and their loved ones.

Founded in January 2024, The Aliver Foundation has already helped place nearly 150 outdoor AED equipment bundles in public recreation spaces. More than 100 of those are in Union County and the foundation is now working with community partners in more than ten states.

For more information, please visit thealiverfoundation.org.

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202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

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GALLERY-ON-THE BOULEVARD TO PRESENT "MAGNIFIED"

Kenilworth Public Library

From May through August 2026, Gallery-on-the-Boulevard will present "Magnified" The macro and closeup photography of Lenny McDonald, a New Jersey-based photographer who sees the world through curious, observant eyes. After a rewarding career of over 20 years as a chemist, he shifted his focus to the more creative pursuit of photography, highlighting the capture and revelation of beauty in Nature. Lenny has showcased his work in solo, duo, trio, and more than 35 group exhibitions. He has been recognized and awarded first place in a Union County Show and at the statewide level for his photography-related work.

A self-taught photographer, Lenny has completed over 165 hours of in-person photography classes, earned certificates for over 60 hours of online photography courses, and participated in several workshops and critiques. He has delivered workshop and lecture presentations such as "Smartphone Nature Photography" at Reeves-Reed Arboretum.

"Magnified" is intended to reveal subjects with an "in-your-face" clarity. The camera helps us find details already present but often unseen, inviting viewers to slow down, feel calm, and see the familiar world differently through careful



(above) Dragonfly - The macro and closeup photography of Lenny McDonald will be shown from may through August at the Kenilworth Public Library.

Courtesy Photo

observation. By shooting up close, McDonald uses the camera to help us notice textures, patterns, and structures we often miss in daily life. His photos can also be viewed on his website: lennysfineartphotos.com

The Gallery-on-the Boulevard exhibit is located in the Kenilworth Public Library. It is free and open to the public during regular library hours. For more information call 908-276-2451.

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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

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 Valencia School of Music Paper Statues & Deadlinez 8:00pm-10:00pm	 Valentied 7:30pm-8:30pm SERENPHORIA 9:00pm-10:00pm	 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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"MOLLY PITCHER" HELPS CELEBRATE 250TH

A mascot doll made by Kenilworth Historical Society members Karen DeMaio and Susan Pinto with assistance from local resident Joanne Gocel pays tribute to American Revolutionary War heroine Molly Pitcher and will appear at Kenilworth AmRev250 events and in classrooms throughout 2026. Molly Pitcher, whose real name was Mary Hays McCauly, carried pitchers of water to soldiers during the Revolutionary War (hence her nickname) and became a symbol of all women who exhibited bravery and resilience during the War.



Courtesy Photo

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WHAT, WHERE, AND WHEN IN OLD KENILWORTH

THE KENILWORTH DINER'S LONG HISTORY 4,000 EGGS AND 750 POUNDS OF POTATOES

The Kenilworth Diner building at 614 Boulevard with a history dating to the 1920s is about 100 years old. In its earliest days it was not an eatery. Back then the property was owned by the Kenilworth Realty Co. Upon the land was a small, single-story building that served as an office. In the late 1920s the undeveloped property for blocks all around the building was used as a landing field for small airplanes. Air shows featuring spectacular aerial stunts were held there that drew thousands of spectators from Kenilworth and distant places.

In the late 1940s, after WWII ended, local veteran Alfred "Freddy" Vitale purchased the building and opened Freddy's Snack Bar. It may be the first time the location was used as an eating establishment. Joan Ruscansky Merrill, also of Kenilworth, noted in 2020, "I was a waitress there" and that Freddy had done some remodeling to the building. Research suggests changes included adding living quarters at the rear of the building and a second story with a dance floor and apartments. At some point hungry folks were beckoned to come inside to eat by a large roof sign simply stating in uppercase letters, "EAT." Freddy, born in 1916 and passed away in 1991 at age 75.

In 1956 Raymond Lisk of neighboring Roselle Park purchased the eatery. He renamed it Ray's Restaurant. He opened at 6 a.m. and often would

be there even earlier. Early arrivers included men on the local sanitation department truck and members of the Kenilworth Police Dept. Ray served breakfast, lunch, and dinner. He was a one-man show doing all of the cooking himself. Dolly Fortunato (Cirillo) from town was a long-time waitress. Many local clubs held their meetings at Ray's including the Optimists Club, Lions Club, and the Kenilworth Business Men's Association. The police department purchased meals from Ray's for prisoners in the local jail. He was an honorary member of the Kenilworth PBA. After retiring from diner ownership, Ray, born in Pennsylvania, moved to Bricktown where he passed away in 1975 at age 70.

Brothers John and Stavros (aka Steve) Glynos bought Ray's in 1971 and renamed it the Kenilworth Diner. Born in Greece they worked there in the Glynos Hotel, owned by their father. The two immigrated to the U.S. in 1969. John married local resident Janet Soltys who became president of the school board. The brothers extensively remodeled the diner in 1985. They did all of their own cooking and baking and were well known for their jumbo cream puffs and over-stuffed sandwiches.

In 2014 the four Benas brothers purchased the diner and kept the name. Seen often at the register and moving about the restaurant to assure all are pleased are Tony, Bob, and Jim. Brother

John is not active on location. Of Greek heritage, the three worked in the kitchen of the Essex House in West Orange where they mastered their culinary skills and business acumen. The diner features a good-sized rear dining room with tables and booths while the front section boasts a long counter for those who prefer counter service and an arrangement of ample-sized window booths.

Committed to excellent service and quality food the brothers are proud that all baking and cooking is done on the premises. When Tony was asked to name a best item, he unhesitatingly said, "Our cheesecake." When inquired about how many eggs and pounds of potatoes are consumed each week, he responded, "We go through about 4,000 eggs and 750 pounds of potatoes every week."

For excellent food on a moderately-priced, extensive menu, it's the Kenilworth Diner.

Research provided by Walter E. Boright, Ed. D., historian, and Historic Signs, Inc.

Sources include: personal interviews, the Cranford Chronicle archives, Borough tax records, the Kenilworth Historical Society, and personal knowledge. Persons with inquiries about this or other Kenilworth history topics, may contact Dr. Boright at drbori@aol.com or 908-256-5200.



(above) Tony, Bob and Jim Benas, current owners, 2026.

Photo: Historic Signs



(above) Diner parking lot was once part of landing field, ca. 1928.

Photo: Kenil. Hist. Soc.



(above) Kenilworth Diner, 2026.

Photo: Historic Signs



(above) William and Janet von Ohlen with future unexpanded diner in background, ca. 1930s.

Photo: Historic Signs



(above) Freddy's Snack Bar: Fred Kelly Lee with Yankee Small Fry team, ca. 1953.

Photo: Historic Signs



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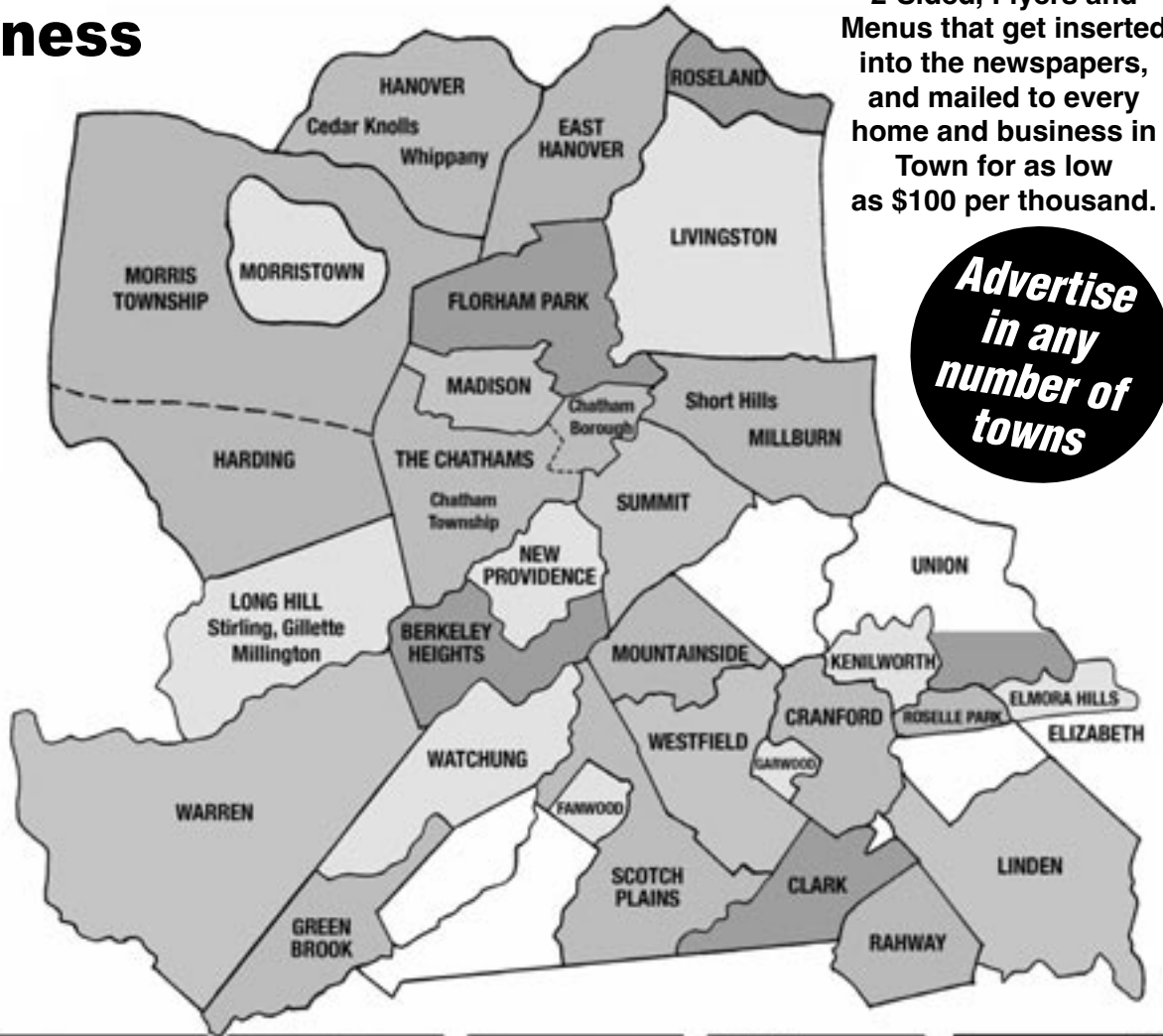
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6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF PAGE	6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
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Fridays at 3:30pm – 4:00pm

June 5 & 26

Ages: 4 – 9

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Boogie Woogie Babies

10:30am – 11:00am on Tuesday, June 2

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

The American Revolution in Union County:

6:30pm - 7:30pm on Tuesday, June 9

As we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution this presentation will focus on the events, people and places that made a difference in the War of Independence and the years that followed .

Yoga Story Time:

10:30am – 11:00am on Wednesday, June 10

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.

Lego At The Library

3:30pm – 4:00pm on Thursdays

June 4, 11, 18 & 25

Build with Lego bricks and design your own creations. Ages: 4-12

TWEEN

Craft

3 - 4pm on Friday, June 12

Ages 10-16

Registration is required and will open for Kenilworth residents on June 1. Out of town residents may begin to register on June 10, space permitting.

Checkmate Club

3:30 - 4:30pm on Wednesday, June 10

Bring your board and challenge fellow kids to a chess game! All levels are welcome.

Ages: 7 & up

Juneteenth Story Time & Craft:

6:30 - 7pm on Tuesday, June 16

Join us for a special story time and craft in honor of Juneteenth. Registration is recommended. Ages: 4 & up

Baby-Sitter's Club Book Club

3:30-4:30 pm on Wednesday, June 17

Join us for a discussion about Baby-Sitter's Club Graphic Novel #4, Claudia and Mean Janine. Registration is recommended.

Ages: 7 & up

THE PRINCIPLES OF HIP HOP: PEACE, LOVE, UNITY & HAVING FUN

7 - 8pm on Thursday, June 18

This ensemble of dynamic and energetic dancers use breakdancing and abundant audience participation to explore hip hop's rich cultural history and how Black youth changed the world. The performance focuses on youth empowerment, creativity, and working together embodied by hip hop's four principles: Peace, Love, Unity, and Having Fun! Registration is recommended.

Good Tyme String Band

11-11:30am on Wednesday, June 24

NOW AT A NEW TIME

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

The American Revolution in Union County:

Tuesday, June 9 - 6:30pm - 7:30pm

As we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution this presentation will focus on the events, people and places that made a difference in the War of Independence and the years that followed during the birth of our new nation.

ADULT PROGRAMS

"Weave with us"

Monday, June 1, 2026 - 5-7:30pm.

Join us and enjoy the company of fellow weavers. Bring your portable loom! Beginners welcome. This event is open house style. "Paper Pals"

Tuesday, June 2 at 2pm

and Monday, June 8 at 6:00 – 7:30pm

for our card making group. You don't need any paper crafting experience to join the fun.

"Yarnies"

Thursdays, June 4 & 11 at 2-4pm

and June 25 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, June 29 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"

Monday, June 30 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.



Yoga Story Time

Wednesday, June 10, 10:30 - 11 a.m.

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

Courtesy Photo

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Selected projects may qualify for professionally documented renovations, special project pricing, and potential homeowner compensation in exchange for filming participation and release.

Call 833-375-1472

Ask for the TV Project Department
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- US Silver Coins Pre-64
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- Trays
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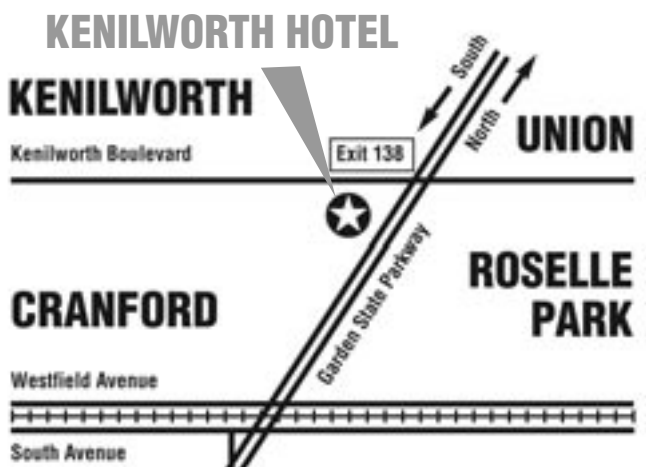
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