

# K BUSINESS + LIFE KENILWORTH

KENILWORTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Issue #54

August 2012

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## KENILWORTH LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

When the New Jersey Taxpayers Association (NJTA) in conjunction with the New Jersey Foundation for Open Government (NJFOG) put out a call for a local government entity to become a role model for government transparency on the internet, Kenilworth Mayor Kathi Fiamingo stepped right up.

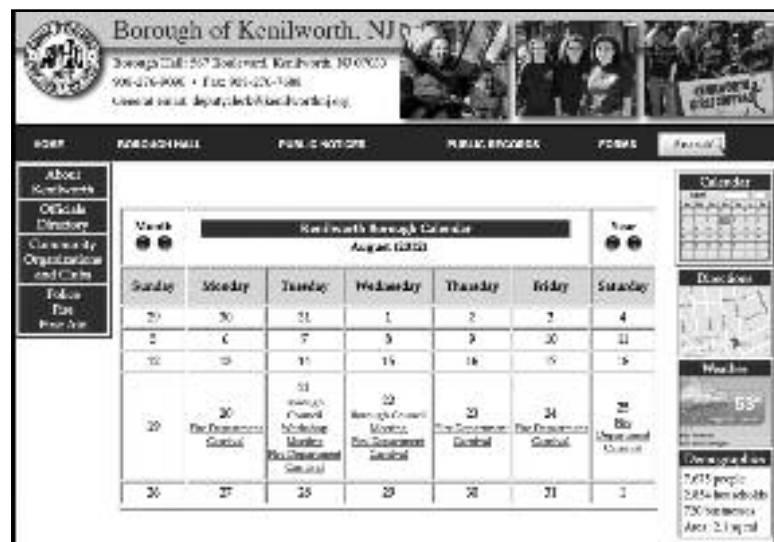
In return the Borough of Kenilworth received a new website, kenilworthborough.com, designed at no cost to the Borough.

The website went live in July and there are many records visitors can freely search and download, the Borough will continue its efforts to place all public records on the site in a timely manner. The site includes official Borough documents along with helpful links to other services.

The website was designed by computer programmer Mike Pierone of Lattice Designs and features a unique program designed by Pierone that enables the viewer to search every field in the Borough's check registry. The program also allows the user to create charts of the data. For example, if someone wanted to compare how much business went to a certain vendor year by year they can just click on an icon. It is also possible to compare expenses from year to year. Another click can show how much was spent on a particular item from year to year.

Pierone is an open government advocate and a board member of NJFOG. He volunteered his time on this project in hopes that once Kenilworth set an example of how government websites should be done, the thousands of other public entities across the state will follow. The two good government groups plan to use the Borough of Kenilworth site as a showcase for best practices in open government.

Mayor Kathi Fiamingo whole heartedly embraced the idea of using Kenilworth as a model for government transparency. Pierone was given access to 12 years of the borough's check registry to load into the site's database. According to Pierone, the only problem with this feature on



[www.kenilworthborough.com](http://www.kenilworthborough.com)

(above) Kenilworth website was designed to be a model for open government and features free and easy access to public records and information.

the new site is record keeping consistency. Different employees and officials through the years kept records in their own way, they recorded things differently. Pierone said historically there was no standard for keeping public records, not just in Kenilworth but in every local government he researched.

Pierone adapted many of Kenilworth's records. The plan is for all records going forward to be uniformly formatted and place on the website in a timely manner. The public will still need to use New Jersey's Open Public Records Act (OPRA) to retrieve documents not yet available on the site. Requests for public records can be made through the site: kenilworthborough.com

Michael Pierone can be reached via email at mpierone@latticedesign.com.



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## MEMO FROM THE MAYOR

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The annual summer carnival, sponsored by the Kenilworth Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad will open on Monday, August 20, 2012 and will run through Saturday, August 25, 2012. There will be rides for everyone from the small child to the adult. Carnival food, games of chance and the beer truck will again be there to enjoy.

The Carnival is the major fundraising effort for the Fire Department and Rescue Squad who do so much for the community throughout the year. The much needed funds help the department to continue their good works throughout the year and finance the renovations at the Fire Department building.

Please come and join in the fun. While there you should buy some Super 50/50 tickets. The cash prize from this raffle is in the thousands of dollars. Test your luck and buy a book of tickets – as they say in the lottery, you gotta be in it to win it. Good luck!

I would like to recognize a number of local merchants and businesses for their support of the first Pride in Kenilworth Car and Hot Rod Show. The following businesses supported the event with donations of prizes for the participants in the show: Kenilworth VFW, Kenilworth Diner, Kenilworth Garden Center, Bella Palermo Pastry Shop, Jimmy Buffs, Peerless Beverage, Mike's Luncheonette, Southside Café, BuyWise Auto Parts, Pro Tour Cycles, North East Tire, Mike and Annie's Ice Cream, NAPA Auto Parts, Installations Unlimited and Especially Yours Flowers. Their donations helped to make the event a success. Please join me in thanking them by supporting their businesses.

Many thanks go out to our Police Chief Kenneth Grady for running this event. Ken is an avid car enthusiast and enjoyed making this event a success. We hope to see many more car shows in the future to attract more people to our Borough and our local businesses.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

*Mayor Kathi Fiamingo*



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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESPONSE TEAM

The Kenilworth Police Department, in conjunction with the Union County YWCA, is looking for volunteers for the Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT).

The DVRT consists of civilians from surrounding communities who respond to the Police Department to speak only with victims of domestic violence and offer available services and guidance to the victims. All of this is done in a secure and confidential setting at the police department.

Volunteers must undergo a thorough background check conducted by the Kenilworth Police Department and successfully complete the training, conducted locally by the YWCA.

Currently no volunteers from Kenilworth are participating in the program.

A training class which consists of one night per week for a total of 40 hours of training to prepare interested volunteers is set to be scheduled in the near future.

Anyone interested in joining the DVRT or who has questions about it should contact Lieutenant Tim Dowd, the Kenilworth Police Department liaison to the team, at 908 276 1700.

## COMMUNITYWIDE GARAGE SALE REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPT. 26

A Communitywide Garage Sale will be held in Kenilworth on Oct. 6 and Oct. 7, 2012. This major event, sponsored by the Kenilworth Historical Society, will take place, rain or shine, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. each day. Nearly 200 residences participated in Kenilworth's Communitywide Garage Sale last fall, and this year's participation is expected to equal or exceed that of last year.

Residents who register and pay a \$10 fee to hold garage sales at their homes anytime during the Oct. 6/Oct. 7 weekend will receive a certificate representing the Borough's permission to proceed and will benefit from the Kenilworth Historical Society's statewide advertising of the communitywide event via major newspapers, Web sites and prominently placed signage and fliers. The addresses of registered participating residences will be included in a Kenilworth Communitywide Garage Sale listing and map that will be available in quantity, free of charge, at the Kenilworth A&P Customer Service desk (801 Boulevard), Borough Clerk's Office (567 Boulevard), Public Library (548 Boulevard), and Especially Yours Florist (13 N. 20th Street) after Oct. 3.

Communitywide Garage Sale registration forms with instructions may be obtained at the Kenilworth Borough Clerk's Office/Borough Hall, Public Library and Especially Yours Florist. The registration deadline is Sept. 26.

For further information, please call 908-709-0434.

The Kenilworth Historical Society is sponsoring the Communitywide Garage Sale as a service to the community. Any proceeds after Borough permit fees, advertising and other related costs are paid will benefit the organization's ongoing project to restore the 19th-century Oswald J. Nitschke House and transform it into Kenilworth's first "living history" museum and cultural arts center.

Other upcoming Kenilworth Historical Society events in 2012 include "Four Centuries in a Weekend" at the Nitschke House (Oct. 20-21); and bus trips to Mohegan Sun Casino (Oct. 27) and Rockvale Shopping Outlets (Nov. 8).

The Kenilworth Historical Society is an independent, volunteer-based, non-profit, tax-exempt, 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to the research, preservation and interpretation of the Oswald J. Nitschke House, local history and culture.

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(above) Allen Jacobson stands in his no-frills showroom which is filled with the newest models of home appliances and the latest in flat-screen TVs.



(above) Allen and Pat Muscaritolo display one of those new fangled microwave ovens first introduced by Amana in 1967.

## JACOBSON'S HAS BEEN SUPPLYING KENILWORTH WITH APPLIANCES FOR OVER 60 YEARS

Nathan and Mae Jacobson opened Jacobson's Distribution Company in December 1949. Originally the business was called Jacobson's Tire and Battery Company because in addition to selling TV's and appliances it also sold auto parts. The business stopped selling auto parts years ago and has concentrated on home appliances and TV's while adding bedding to the mix. Jacobson's is still at the same location, still family owned and operated and still the most successful distributor in the area.

Upon their retirement in 1975, Nathan and Mae passed the business on to their son Allen.

There is no secret to Jacobson's success. All one has to do is walk in to the show room and notice the vintage interior decorating. Shoppers are greeted with original tin ceiling tiles, dated wood paneling and scuffed floor tiles. It has never been Jacobson's style to try to impress its customers with superficial amenities but with the lowest warehouse to customer prices around.

By keeping his overhead low Jacobson's can offer discounted prices and concentrate more on service. For instance they can offer free delivery on appliances or free assembly of gas grills. When competing with the big mega-stores Jacobson's service cannot be matched.

For those shopping strictly for the lowest price Jacobson's guarantees to be the lowest of any authorized dealer. If he doesn't have the lowest price already, Allen will gladly beat any offer on any item he carries.

What makes Jacobson's operation unique is

the size of his warehouse that is on premises at 725 Rahway Avenue in Elizabeth and his staff. Allen is able to buy in bulk and keep a large inventory, a savings that is passed on to the consumer. He maintains his own delivery and warehouse staff where others must pay third party services.

Jacobson's also carries a wider variety of brands than most appliance stores. Customers have hands on access to a large selection of appliances that fill a variety of needs in price and size, from apartment dwellers to homeowners. Jacobson's is also the favorite for many home remodeling and building professionals.

The seasoned decor of the store is accompanied by a sales staff that matches in longevity. Pat Muscaritolo has been a sales person for Jacobson's an astounding 35 years. Ken Gartner clocks in at 31 years and newcomer Tarek Metwally has 19 years under his belt. The combined experience of the staff and Allen adds to the customer's feeling of security of knowing that they are getting expert advice and that they can count on continued support even after the sale is made.

The consistency of good service at low prices over the years is the reason for the loyalty that customers have shown Jacobson's. Allen has literally sold appliances to families spanning four generations. Return and referral business is a testimony to the value he offers. No one lasts for sixty years in business without an impeccable reputation of customer satisfaction.

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(left l-r) Jacobson's store front from 1959 and 2012. Being located in a designated Urban Enterprise Zone allows Jacobson's to charge only 3 1/2% sales tax, an additional savings for the customer.



(above, l-r) Tarek Metwally, Pat Muscaritolo and Ken Gartner combine for 85 years of employment at Jacobson's.

(above, l-r) Pat, Linda Mzikovsky, Joan Dobson, Nathan Jacobson and Allen from a 1993 photo.

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# PRIDE IN KENILWORTH SHINES AT 1ST ANNUAL CAR SHOW



(above, l-r) Club 3 members Kevin Evans, Brian Ivory, Ed Cook, Steve Raiteri, Ron Ivory, Gary Wiese, Ed Goins, Dennis Fiore, Blair Edmonds, Ray Keller, Scott Miller, Ron Lang, Garrett Wiese.

The 1st Annual Pride In Kenilworth & Kenilworth Veterans Center Hot Rods & Classic Car Show was held on July 28th across from the Veterans Center.

Club 3, a local car club of friends from Kenilworth, Cranford, Roselle Park and Union County area, volunteered to help Police Chief Ken Grady and the Town of Kenilworth. Over a dozen members brought along their classic cars and hot rods and helped organizing and judging the event.



(above) Avery, age 2.



(above) DJ Mike Gelnovatch




(above) Volunteers Anthony Vetuschi, Mike Vitale, Chris Corbisiero, Dog Kody, Bob Jeans, Frank Deluca, Mike Curren.



(above) Brian & Matthew Karp romp around in a 1972 Olds Cutless Convertible.



(above) Volunteer Doreen Guenther.



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# KENILWORTH FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Located at 548 Boulevard. Library website is [www.kenilworthlibrary.org](http://www.kenilworthlibrary.org).

Registration for programs may be done in person at the library or by calling 908 276-2451.

The library's regular schedule of operation: Mon, Tues and Thurs: 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM,

Wed: 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Fri: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Sat: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

The Kenilworth Public Library is handicapped accessible.

## LIBRARY PATRONS SEE RARELY PERFORMED CARDENIO

The final performance of the Kenilworth Public Library's 2012 "The Bard on the Boulevard" outdoor Shakespeare series will be a presentation under the stars of the rarely performed Cardenio at 7:30 PM on Thursday, August 16 at the David Brearley field located at 14th Street and the Boulevard. First performed in 1631 and now lost, the authorship of Cardenio was attributed to both William Shakespeare and John Fletcher and was likely based on an episode of Miguel de Cervantes literary masterpiece Don Quixote. A reconstructed version of the play will be performed by members of The Hudson Shakespeare Company and should appeal not only to fans of Shakespeare and Cervantes but also to anyone interested in the universal themes of love, betrayal and madness.

This program is free and open to all members of the general public and preregistration is not

required. People planning to attend should bring their own lawn chairs or other outdoor seating as sitting in the bleachers is not recommended. In the event of rain or extreme heat, the performance will be moved indoors to the Kenilworth Public Library, located at 548 Boulevard.

Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. Additional funding was provided by the Kenilworth Chamber of Commerce, a platinum level sponsor for this year's entire "The Bard on the Boulevard" series.

More information about the Hudson Shakespeare Company can be found at [www.hudsonshakespeare.org](http://www.hudsonshakespeare.org).

## BOOK GROUP TO DISCUSS FIFTH BUSINESS BY DAVIES

The book group of the Kenilworth Public Library will meet to discuss Fifth Business, by Robertson Davies at 7:15 PM on Tuesday, August 14. This highly celebrated novel consists of six parts, taking readers into the life of Dunstan Ramsay, a decorated World War I veteran from southern Ontario.

The discussion will be preceded by an informal brown bag dinner, beginning at 6:15, with the library providing dessert, coffee and tea. Participation is free and open to all members of the general public; no previous experience with a book group is required and new members are always welcome, including people who reside in communities other than Kenilworth. Copies of Fifth Business are available for checkout at the library's circulation desk and out-of-town residents should inquire regarding ways they may be eligible for borrowing privileges at the Kenilworth Public Library. Because space is limited, preregistration is requested and can be done at the library or by calling 908 276-2451 during regular library hours.



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## KENILWORTH LIBRARY BOOK GROUP TO CELEBRATE TEN YEARS OF READING AND DISCUSSION

All past, present and future members of the Kenilworth Public Library book discussion group are invited to attend the tenth anniversary of the book group's founding with a celebration that is scheduled to begin at 6:15 PM on August 21 in the library's activity room. All attendees are requested to bring a food or beverage item to be shared with others for a pot luck dinner on the evening of the celebration. Rather than discussing a particular book, attendees at this event will be encouraged to share their memories of the group, including answers to such questions as favorite and least favorite book group books and favorite book group memory.

According to Library Director Dale Spindel, the library's book group met for the first time on August 5, 2002 with six people in attendance to discuss *Tell Me a Riddle*, by Tillie Olsen but when the group met for a second time on October 22 to discuss *Tulip Fever*, by Deborah Moggach, 24 people showed up. Since then, the group has averaged between 12 and 15 attendees per meeting, but with larger crowds coming out for such special events as the visit from Jonathan

Safran Foer, the author of *Everything is Illuminated* and *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* in November 2006. Spindel anticipates another milestone celebration when the group meets to discuss its 100th book in December of 2013. Also according to Spindel, at least three people who attended the group's first meeting are still participating on a regular basis although she wants to stress that she is also always delighted to see new faces.



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# ROTARY CLUB PRESENTS NEW OFFICERS

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"Meet Your Rotarians at Work" every Wednesday at Bella Napoli, Kenilworth, NJ 12:15pm. All are invited to be a part of Rotary's "Service Above Self" and celebrate the Club's 65th anniversary. visit [kenilworthnjrotary.org](http://kenilworthnjrotary.org).

(left, l-r) 2012-13 New Officers of Kenilworth Rotary Club: Mary Orella, Treasurer; Dr. Scott Taylor, President; Karlee McLoughlin, Vice President, District Governor 7510 Dwight Leeper. (not pictured Brian Luciani, Secretary).

# HELPING SERVICE DOGS



Recently, JT Bokoske of Kenilworth held a weekend long fundraising drive at Fish and Pets Plus. He collected over \$850 worth of merchandise to be sent to our Nation's Military Service Dogs currently serving in the Middle East. Some of the items collected were dog booties, shampoo, rope toys, salve for their paws and treats.

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(above) Dylan Lang and young El Salvadorians.

On May 26th, 2012 I embarked on a week-long journey to El Salvador through the International Service Program with the University of Scranton. Just stepping off of the plane, you could instantly see that El Salvador was a very special place. The people are friendly, caring, giving, and full of smiles. Unfortunately, the majority of them are living off of less money than we might spend on a nice dinner. We are worried in the US that our unemployment rate is 8%...but the

## REFLECTIONS OF A JOURNEY TO EL SALVADOR

Submitted by Dylan Lang, Kenilworth resident and a 2011 graduate of UC Magnet HS.

unemployment rate in El Salvador is 70%. Of those 30% that have jobs, the average salary for an El Salvadorian is somewhere between \$1500-3500...A YEAR.

During our week in El Salvador, we worked at two different locations: Las Delicias and Zaragoza. I spent the majority of my time in Las Delicias. We did a bunch of different things...everything from building a house to playing with the children to digging ditches. My favorite part of the entire week was playing with the kids though. Whether we were at the orphanage, day care, or just at a work site, the kids were the happiest people I have ever seen in my life, despite the fact that they had nothing. I saw them day after day greeting me in the same clothes that they wore the day before. They had mud and dirt on their feet, because some of them didn't even have shoes. Most of the kids that I saw had one meal a day (which consisted of a tortilla, a little scoop of rice, and a small bit of stew). The only reason they got this meal is because of a program started by Sister Gloria from the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus who hosted us for the week. These sisters spend their lives trying to help the El Salvadorian people.

I will continue raising money and seeking donations so I can send things to the people of El Salvador like shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toys, clothes, and anything else I can. These people have very little. What if you didn't have electricity...or enough money to buy food for your family for even one meal a day...or you had no shoes but had to walk to school every day? For just \$300, I am able to buy 500

toothbrushes, 500 small tubes of toothpaste, 500 small shampoo bottles, and 1,000 bars of soap. Those little things would mean the world to so many people.

People often have asked me why I decided to go do service in another country when so many people in our own country are poor. To answer this, I refer to two of my new favorite quotes. The first quote is by the late Archbishop Oscar Romero who was shot in El Salvador by the government because he was trying to stand up for his people, "We who have a voice must be a voice for the voiceless". The second is a quote by Mother Teresa, "If we have no peace, it is because we often forget that we belong to each other." We are not just Americans and El Salvadorians; we are all people on this earth and we are all equal.

El Salvador has changed me, and I want to continue to change them. Spreading the awareness only goes so far, so I need your help to take action. If you have clothes that you don't need, games that you don't play, shoes that don't fit you, extra bottles of soap and shampoo that you have lying around your house or sitting in your hotel bathroom...please send them to me, and I will make sure they get to the people in El Salvador who will be forever grateful for your generosity. I will also be accepting tax-deductible monetary donations that I will send to the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

If you are interested in making a donation, please contact me via email at [Dylan.Lang@scranton.edu](mailto:Dylan.Lang@scranton.edu). Thank you for your support from the bottom of my heart.

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# RECREATION OFFERS UP HOT FUN IN THE SUMMERTIME

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"Thank You all the parents and kids of Kenilworth for making this another great year of camp. we will continue to build this program every year, and improve every day. We would hope that everyone who has been coming to the camp is sure to be there for the last day, Aug 17th, as we plan on making it an event for these kids to remember. Any questions about camp, you can call Kristin at (908)400-2898." Pat Boyle, Kenilworth Recreation Director

## KENILWORTH RECREATION UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Canoe Trip/Barbeque will be held on August 9th from 4pm to 6pm at the Cranford Canoe Club. The cost is \$12 per person. For tickets call Kristin at (908)400-2934.

On September 15th, a huge, town-wide scavenger hunt will be held with teams of 3 to 5. Many prizes will be awarded. . Sign-ups will be at the Recreation Center on August 11 and August 18 from 10am to 1pm. The cost is \$5 each person to enter. For more info, or to sign up early, visit [www.kenilworthrecreation.com](http://www.kenilworthrecreation.com) or email Kristin at [kristin@kenilworthrecreation.com](mailto:kristin@kenilworthrecreation.com)



Photo by Pat Boyle

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is having it's annual  
**CANOE TRIP/BARBEQUE**  
**AUG 9TH**  
4pm to 6pm  
\$12 per person  
**Cranford Canoe Club**  
for tickets call Kristin at  
(908)400-2934

Kenilworth Rec is having a huge

**TOWN WIDE  
SCAVENGER HUNT**  
**Saturday, Sept 15th**

Teams of 3 to 5, with many prizes.  
Sign ups will be at the Rec Center on  
Aug 11th, & Aug 18th, 10am to 1pm.

\$5 each person to enter.

For more info, or to sign up early,  
visit [www.kenilworthrecreation.com](http://www.kenilworthrecreation.com) or  
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