

BUSINESS + LIFE KENILWORTH

KENILWORTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Issue #87 •

• March 2015

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BLUE RIBBONS SHOW SUPPORT OF POLICE

After riots broke out in Missouri and New York, and NYPD officers Wenjian Liu and Rafeal Ramos were shot and killed as they sat in a marked squad car in Brooklyn on December 20, 2014, Kenilworth's borough clerk Laura Reinertsen was dismayed by the anti-police sentiment that was being reported in the national news. She had an idea of placing blue ribbons around Kenilworth Borough Hall to show support for the police and she called the Kenilworth Garden Center for help.

It was right in the midst of the Christmas holiday bustle, but owners Gail and Art Russo thought it was a great idea and they tracked down some blue ribbon for the effort. Gail and Art along with Art's mom Mary, created the bows and installed them at Kenilworth's Borough Hall free of charge.

The Russo's thought it was such a great idea that they offered their services free of charge to other towns. Laura sent a blast email to other Union County clerks asking if they'd like blue ribbons to decorate their municipal

buildings. The response was overwhelming. To date the Russo's have placed blue ribbons to show support in Union, Cranford, Winfield Park, Elizabeth, Springfield, Fanwood, Scotch Plains, Clark, Roselle Park and Kenilworth.

Remembers Gail Russo, owner of Kenilworth Garden Center, "The police were getting a bad rap. We wanted to show our support."

On January 28th, 2015 a resolution was passed unanimously by Mayor Fred Pugliese and the Council which declared their "support and solidarity with the men and women who serve as law enforcement officers for their distinctive service and dedicated efforts, earning our highest respect and deepest gratitude, which must be recognized and honored for their selfless and heroic service and invaluable contributions to upholding justice, enforcing the rule of law, and protecting the innocent in Kenilworth, the State of New Jersey and in this nation."



(above) Kenilworth Borough Hall was decorated with blue ribbons to show support for police.

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MEMO FROM THE MAYOR

KCoC • Page 2 • March 2015



Now that spring is right around the corner we can hopefully look forward to seeing and enjoying all the beauty that the surrounding areas, and particularly our town of Kenilworth, have to offer. In the past many volunteers who were members of the Beatification Committee spent a few hours on a couple of Saturdays beautifying our town by planting eye catching flowers in our downtown area as well as along the 9/11 Memorial at Borough Hall. Our thanks go out to these Borough residents who participated in the Beautification Committee such as Olga Hackett, Thomas Hackett, Maria Cardoso and Justine Melillo, who endeavor to beautify our town every spring.

Furthermore, in years past the Borough created a Pride in Kenilworth Committee which consisted of volunteers who would assist in the planning and execution in some Borough events such as the street fair, fireworks, etc. The Pride in Kenilworth Committee was disbanded a few years ago.

We will be resurrecting the Pride in Kenilworth Committee and will be joining it with the Beatification Committee. One of the events that this joint committee will help coordinate will be the 9/11 ceremony which takes place annually at Borough Hall. The second event which is still in the infancy of the planning stage, is a "Winter Wonderland" type themed event which would take place on or about December 6, 2015 in the municipal parking lot on South 21st Street as well as indoors in the Kenilworth Veterans Center with gratitude to Commander Robert Jeans. This event will culminate with a Tree Lighting ceremony at Borough Hall.

Some residents have already volunteered to participate and sit on the joint committee however, the help of more volunteers would be greatly appreciated in participating in the planning or execution of these endeavors.

As a result of budget cutting measures we have been able to put aside funding for these events through transfer of budget line items without any additional spending. As a member of the joint committee you would help plan and/or execute the events with the budgeted funds. If anyone is interested in volunteering on the joint committee please contact me by email at f.pugliese@kenilworthnj.org or phone the Borough Clerk at (908) 276-9090.

In addition, the Recreation Committee also has vacancies so if you wish to plan and/or participate in recreational events please contact me or the Borough Clerk. Both of these committees will only require a brief commitment of time as presumably they will only meet once a month to plan and to execute various events. We look forward to hearing from you.

One of the events that is put together by the Recreation Committee is the Easter Egg Hunt which this year it will take place on March 28 (rain date March 29) at 10 am at DiMario Park on Michigan Avenue. The Easter Egg Hunt will start promptly at 10 am so it is important that you arrive early in order that your child or grandchild can harvest as many eggs and prizes as possible. Many thanks go out to the Recreation Committee which helps put this event together.

I understand that many people do not have the time or ability to volunteer, however if you do have the time and ability keep in mind:

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Mayor Fred M. Pugliese, Esq.

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August 3rd - 7th • 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
ages 10 and up

Our Summer Intensive is available to all students ages 10 and up who have some dance experience and the drive to learn more! Your dancer will be exposed to technique in Ballet every day (pointe for our more advanced dancers), Jazz, Hip-hop, Modern, Lyrical, Contemporary, Tap, Partner Dancing, Improvisation and more!

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KENILWORTH POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Submitted by Kenilworth Police Chief John Zimmerman

The Kenilworth Police Department has begun a proactive community policing initiative in 2015. Traditionally, police organizations have responded to crime after it occurs and, therefore, are structured to support routine patrol, rapid response to calls for service, arrests, and follow-up investigations. Community policing calls for a more strategic and thoughtful incorporation of these aspects of police business into an overall broader police mission focused on the proactive prevention of crime and disorder.

Some of the Kenilworth Police Department's community based policing initiatives are having

an increased presence in David Brearley Middle/High School, Harding School, and St. Theresa's School both during school hours and after hours and weekends. The David Brearley Middle/ High School currently have a full-time School Resource Officer assigned that is on their premises. In addition, a walking post in the center of town was instituted on weekdays during the early afternoon hours when the center of town is most busy. The officer will be making stops amongst the local businesses while on the beat to form stronger lines of communication and familiarization between the local police and businesses. In addition, the officers will be stopping by the Senior Citizen's building and Kenilworth Public Library to address their concerns and be more accessible to their patrons and the community. The community will see an increased presence in local parks and community and sporting events where the Kenilworth Police will be present and accessible for all community members alike.

Another community service performed by the

Kenilworth Police Department is conducting periodic vacant residence checks while residents are away on vacation or their home is vacant for an extended period of time. If you wish to be added to this program please stop by the police department to complete a form for this service.

A new initiative currently slated for – July 13th through July 17th this summer is the Kenilworth Police Department Youth Academy. This program will be for Kenilworth residents who are going into 9th through 12th grades and limited to 30 applicants. The mission of the Kenilworth Police Department's Youth Academy is "To Introduce the Youth of Kenilworth to Basic Police Practices and Routines in an Effort to Promote Understanding of Law Enforcement Principles as well as to Encourage Positive Interactions Between the Community and the Kenilworth Police Department." Youth Academy applications will be available in May at the High School through the School Resource Officer Brian Pickton who will be running the Youth Academy.



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DESIGNER POCKETBOOK BINGO

David Brearley High School Athletic Booster Club is sponsoring a Designer Pocketbook Bingo, on Saturday, April 18th at the VFW Hall, located at 33 South 21st Street in Kenilworth. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Games begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets purchased in advance are \$25 each., \$30 at the door. Admission includes: 3 boards per game – 15 games in total; and a raffle ticket to win a “Kate Spade” bag. Additional boards may be purchased. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. All beverages, including soda and water, must be purchased at the event. No outside drinks or alcohol. Participants are welcome to bring their own food, appetizers, snacks. Free coffee and dessert will be available. Must be at least 18 years of age for admittance.

David Brearley High School is a 501 (c) 3 organization. All proceeds will benefit athletic supported programs at DBHS.

For additional information call (908) 868-6587 or e-mail DBHS.ABC@gmail.com.

KENILWORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT MAKES TREMENDOUS GAINS ON THE NJ DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PERFORMANCE REPORT

Dr. Scott Taylor, Superintendent, Kenilworth Public Schools (@KenilworthSuper)

The performance of the Kenilworth Public School District rose dramatically in peer and statewide rankings according to the latest New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) annual School Performance Reports.

The NJDOE annually publishes a “report card” for all of the schools in the state that measures progress in several areas, including Academic Achievement, College and Career Readiness, Student Growth and Graduation/Post-Secondary Preparedness.

Harding and David Brearley Schools rose in the peer and statewide rankings in five of the six categories by which the district was judged (ranking in the sixth category remained the same from last year). Harding Elementary School is now outperforming 52% of the schools in its peer group (up from 21% last year). Brearley

Middle-High School is placed in the 99% percentile of like schools in the area of Graduation and Post-Secondary Preparedness.

The tremendous increase in our performance is a direct result of the very hard work of our support staff, teachers and school leadership who responded so well to a reform program put in place several years ago.

Our reform plan meant changing the way the school community thinks about teaching and learning so that academic rigor has become the cornerstone of what everyone in the district does.

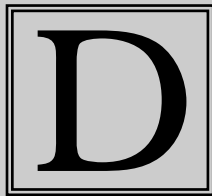
I encourage readers to download information placed on the front page of the district’s website-www.kenilworthschools.com. Congratulations to the entire Kenilworth community are much deserved.

The Kenilworth Chamber of Commerce is delighted to announce our continued support of graduating Kenilworth high school seniors!

NOW IS THE TIME TO GET YOUR SCHOLARSHIP PRIZE APPLICATION!

Last year we only had one applicant which left a lot of unspent money! This year’s prize winner(s) will have their choice between a brand new laptop or iPad!

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KENILWORTH RESIDENT AMONG CLASS FROM TRINITAS SCHOOL OF NURSING

With nursing diplomas and Associate in Science degrees from Union County College (UCC) in hand, the January class of the Trinitas School of Nursing celebrated their completion of the program at graduation exercises held recently at the UCC campus in Cranford. The class included 75 women and 13 men, continuing a trend of increasing numbers of men seeking nursing careers. The graduates included

Kenilworth resident Chinonye N. Uka.

Trinitas School of Nursing currently holds full continuing accreditation from The National League for Nursing (NLN) Accrediting Commission, Inc. through Fall 2020. The NLN's Board of Commissioners' extended accreditation is based on the School's designation as an NLN Center of Excellence; the length of employment of the faculty, all of

whom hold certification as Certified Nurse Educators (CNE); the School's fostering of excellence among students with English as a second language; the School's nurturing environment for student support that encourages success among the entire student body, and the excellent relationships among the Trinitas Regional Medical Center nursing staff, clinical unit managers, faculty and students.



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KENILWORTH FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Located at 548 Boulevard. Library website is 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:
 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10am - 8pm,
 Wednesday 10am - 6 pm,
 Friday 10am - 5pm, Saturday 10am - 2pm
 Closed Sunday. The Kenilworth Public Library is handicapped accessible.
[facebook.com/kenilworthworth.public.library](https://www.facebook.com/kenilworthworth.public.library)

The Spring Reading Program

Begins Mon., March 30th. concludes Fri., May 15th. Children who were previously signed up for the Winter Reading Program will automatically be registered. Children must be registered in one of the following programs in order to participate in any other Kenilworth Public Library special event.

Mommy, Daddy & Me

a parent and child at home reading program for children ages 2 - 5.

I Can Read

a reading program for children who are just starting to read on their own from ages 6 - 8.

Club Reads a lot

a reading program for children ages 9 - 12.

Registration is required for:
Lap Sit for babies ages 0 - 23 months
 Tuesdays from 10:30 - 10:50am;
 March 31, April 7, 14, 21 & 28 and May 5 & 12..

Toddler Time for 2 year olds
 Wednesdays from 10:30 - 10:50am;
 April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 and May 6 & 13.
 Stories, puppets and music just right for the youngest listeners will be introduced.

STORY TIME for children ages 3
 Thursdays from 6:30 - 7:00pm;
 April 2, 9, 23 & 30 and May 7 & 14.

Learn About Owls

Thursday, April 16th at 3:30 - 4:30pm.
 Children will learn about and view up close live owls. This program will be presented by The Raptor Trust located in Millington, NJ. Children ages 4 and up are invited to register for this program.
 Kenilworth residents may begin to register on April 9. Out of town residents may begin to register on April 13.

Lego In The Library

Wednesdays from 3:30 - 4:30pm
 for children ages 4 - 12 years old;
 April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 and May 6 & 13..
 Register for this seven week program to build and create with 10,000 Lego bricks. Each week a new theme will be introduced to encourage creativity. Books related to the weekly theme will be available for check out.
 Registration is required.

READ 1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN!

The concept is simple, the rewards are priceless. Read a book (any book) to your newborn, infant, and/or toddler. The goal is to have read 1,000 books (yes, you can repeat books) before your child starts kindergarten. Does it sound hard? Not really if you think about it. If you read just 1 book a night, you will have read about 365 books in a year. That is 730 books in two years and 1,095 books in three years. If you consider that most children start kindergarten at around 5 years of age, you have more time than you think (so get started). When your child reaches each milestone, a small prize will be given. Children ages 0 to 5 years old who have not yet entered kindergarten are eligible to register for this program. Registration begins Monday, Jan. 8th. For more information about this program, please call the library at 908-276-2451.

Registration is not required for the following:

Bingo For Young Children

Fridays from 3:30 - 4:00pm
 for children ages 3 & up: April 10 & 24 and May 8.
 Games may include A-B-C Bingo, Number Bingo and Color & Shape Bingo. Parents must remain in the library during the program.

Bingo For Children Who Can Read

Fridays from 3:30 - 4:00pm in the Activity Room:
 April 17 and May 1 & 15.
 Games may include Book Bingo, USA Bingo, History Bingo & Kenilworth Bingo. Parents do not participate in this program.



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 Divas Rule!
 Hip Hop 'til You Drop

Dance Intensive for ages 13 & up
 Hip Hop Intensive



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We can't wait to see you this summer!
 Space is limited, REGISTER NOW!
 Dance Intensive begins June 16th
 Camps and classes run July 6th-August 14th



JR GIRL SCOUT TROOP RECOGNIZED BY MAYOR

Kenilworth's Junior Girl Scout Troop # 40897 was recognized by Mayor Fred Pugliese and the Kenilworth Borough Council during the January 28, 2015 council meeting for achieving the Girl Scout Bronze Award.

Eight girls completed a 20-hour long community service project which included raising awareness of pet adoption and foster care. The Bronze Award is the highest award a Junior Girl Scout can achieve.

The girls project included partnering with different groups including the Summit Animal Rescue Association (SARA, Inc.). They were a part of SARA's pet fair where they were able to

assist with the pet adoption process.

They were also able to tour the St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center and also volunteered time there.

The girls also ran a booth at the Kenilworth Street Fair where they educated the community on different pet rescue organizations. The money collected at the Street Fair was donated to St. Hubert's and was used to purchase a motion sensor camera, which the facility needed to enable them to monitor the surrounding area of their building after hours in case people dropped off pets that needed immediate assistance.

RECYCLING LESSONS

St. Theresa School in Kenilworth learned the fun way to recycle with the Grand Falloons. The students follow the adventures of Professor Winklebottom and Meatloaf in the importance of reducing waste at its source. Using fun props, song and dance the children interacted with the Grand Falloons and had an informative experience on the act of reducing re-using and recycling garbage.



(above) l-r) Professor Winklebottom, Marcello Limone, Meatloaf, Melody Cadet and Nicole Santoro.



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SAVE THE DATE APRIL 25H FOR "TEAPOT TALES"



(above) Shown here at the National Palace Museum in Taiwan, certified tea specialist and collector Darlene Meyers-Perry of Roselle, N.J., will be the featured guest speaker for "Teapot Tales," the Kenilworth Historical Society's April 25th annual Tea benefit for the local historic Oswald J. Nitschke House "living history" museum and cultural arts center. Meyers-Perry will present "Confessions of a Teapot Collector," the fascinating stories behind her vast collection of teapots from around the world, and will offer insight into the practice of teapot collecting. Also shown are two of the many unusual teapots from Meyers-Perry's collection, which will be displayed and discussed during the "Teapot Tales" event.

BARBARA WIRKUS: BOOK SIGNING AND POETRY READING AT LIBRARY

On Tuesday, March 24 at 6:30 pm, join us for an evening with poet Barbara Wirkus, who will share original works from her new book "Echoes from the Bell Jar." We are thrilled to see the publication of this collection of poems, written by one of Kenilworth's most gifted authors.

Recently featured in Inside Jersey magazine, Ms. Wirkus is an active member of the New Jersey community, having served as President of the Union Emergency Medical Unit, on which

she served for eight years. She is also one of the Kenilworth Public Library's most tireless supporters, having volunteered countless hours tending Adelaide's Garden on the library lawn and curating our Gallery-on-the-Boulevard, a series of exhibits showcasing the work of local artists.

From the cover: "Barbara Wirkus is a Jill of all trades and mistress of none. In her lifetime she has been a wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, Emergency Medical Technician,

Medical Technologist, poet, tap dancer, gardener, photographer, writer, political activist, birder, and art gallery curator.

"She loves baking cookies, movies, books, Broadway shows and the Rolling Stones. She resides in "The Little House That Could" in a small New Jersey Town."

Please call (908) 276-2451, email kenilworth@lmxac.org, or visit the library to register for this event.



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WHAT SOUND REPRESENTS KENILWORTH BEST



(above) Bernie Wagenblast

When you think of your hometown, chances are images come to mind. Perhaps it's an historic structure or maybe it's a feature of nature, but have you ever stopped to consider the sounds of your town? A life-long resident of New Jersey hopes to create an audio mosaic of the state made up from a sound from each one of its 565 municipalities.

Bernie Wagenblast began his quest on July 4, 2013 in Milltown at the town's Independence Day parade. Since then he's added over 140 towns around the state. Wagenblast calls his project New Jersey 565 and says he tries to find a sound that's unique for the town. In many instances the audio clips, and the story behind them, may even be surprising to long-time

residents.

One of the highlights of the summer season for Kenilworth residents is the annual fire department carnival held at St. Theresa's School. Cotton candy, games of chance and, of course, thrill rides make for a perfect August evening. Kenilworth's sound was captured at the carnival and you can hear it at <http://shouts.at/RE5>.

Wagenblast's goal is to collect 100 sounds a year and complete the project in six years. You can hear other communities' sounds at <http://www.pinterest.com/brwagenblast/new-jersey-565/>

If you have a suggestion for a sound for New Jersey 565 you can reach Bernie at bernie@bwcommunications.net.

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All Jumble Store proceeds benefit the community projects of the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield (JLEP), a non-profit organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Through its members, JLEP serves individuals and organizations in need throughout greater Union County. Our current focus is on assisting families and young women in crisis, addressing both prevention and intervention. For more information visit our website at www.jlepaj.org, call us at 908-790-1177 or email pres@jlepaj.org

BREAKFAST TO DISCUSS TRADE & VOCATIONAL CAREERS

The Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce's Workforce Education Committee is pleased to host a seminar on trade/vocational careers for educators from Union County and beyond.

The Workforce Education Committee has found that many high school graduates in Union County do not have the financial means to attend traditional four-year colleges and that such institutions often burden students with significant debt and limited preparation to join the workforce.

The Workforce Education Committee will discuss alternative career options available that can be entered at a much lower cost, such as medical assistants, carpentry, transportation and logistics and others.

A panel discussion of trade industry experts will be moderated by Jim Coyle, President of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The event will be held on Friday, March 20, 2015 from 8:00-10:00a.m., at the Holiday Inn, located at 36 Valley Road, Clark, NJ.

The event is free for educators; \$25 for others. Please register in advance on line at www.gatewaychamber.com or contact Bidisa Rai (908) 352-0900 or email bidisarai@gatewaychamber.com.

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The Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce recently honored three local businesses and a local chamber of commerce at its 103rd Annual Dinner Meeting, held earlier this month at the Newark Airport Marriott.


Renna Media, publishers of Kenilworth Business Life, was honored as Small Company of the Year. Founded and operated by Joe and Tina Renna, the small publishing house publishes 13 hyper-local newspapers in Union, Somerset and Warren counties.


Other honorees included Infineum USA L.P. of Linden, Large Company of the Year; R. Seelus & Company, Medium Company of the Year. The Linden Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of the Year.

The Kenilworth Chamber of Commerce is an affiliate of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce, the fastest growing and largest Chamber in Northern New Jersey. To learn more visit www.GatewayChamber.com.



(above) Kamal Assad, owner of Sign-A-Rama of Kenilworth presented Joe and Tina Renna, publishers of Kenilworth Business Life, with the Small Company of the Year Award on behalf of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce. Assad is also president of the Kenilworth Chamber of Commerce.



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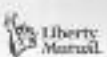
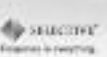


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ATLANTIC BEACH SOAP TO HOST FUND RAISER TO SUPPORT CRANFORD'S PROJECT HOME

Atlantic Beach Soap Company® "The Largest Soap Store in New Jersey" located at 102B North Union Avenue in downtown Cranford announced a month-long event to showcase the work of Cranford artist Cynthia A. Dawley. As part of the store's expansion into the home décor sector, owner Shaun Vanclief decided to bring in select oils by the acclaimed artist and to help support Cranford's very own "Project Home." A portion of the sales of Cynthia's work will be donated to the local charity throughout the month of March.

Cynthia Dawley's use of bright color and vivid light captures the emotion and moment on canvas. Her subject matter is quite diverse, including the cityscapes of NYC, to neighborhood points of interest, to beach scenes, to foreign countries. Cynthia has exhibited her oil paintings in galleries all over the country, and her works have also been seen on "The Sopranos" and in corporate settings.

On Friday evening, March 13th Atlantic Beach Soap Company® is hosting an open

gallery event where you can meet Cynthia Dawley between the hours of 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. There will be product demonstrations and live entertainment featuring the acoustic duo "Two Steps UPP." There will also be a silent auction with proceeds going to Project Home. If you miss the Friday event, Atlantic Beach Soap Company® will be hosting a 2nd gallery event on Sunday, March 29th between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. where you can again meet the artist and listen to the acoustic rendition of The "American Songbook" featuring the vocals of Bonnie Russo and John LaMorges on keyboard.

Stop by and enjoy these great events and help support Project Home. There is plenty of on-street parking as well as several municipal lots conveniently within walking distance of the Atlantic Beach Soap shop.



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Project Ready is a free 6-week job readiness and computer skills training class designed for adults who are actively looking for work. Volunteer tutors help students identify skills, write resumes, practice interviewing, and search for jobs. Basic computer skills, including Microsoft Word and Excel, are also taught.

The program runs Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 am until 2:30 pm. The next session begins March 31, 2015 and ends on May 14, 2015.

Please call us at (908) 353-1045, Ext 8, or email Projectreadyprg@yahoo.com. If you are interested in participating in this class, join us for our Information and Sign up session on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 1pm (118 Division St. Elizabeth, NJ). Seats are limited –Student selection by lottery.

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CRANFORD HOSTS 2ND ANNUAL WHITE CASTLE SPONSORED BOY SCOUT CHESS TOURNAMENT



(above) Third place winner of the White Castle / Boy Scout Chess tournament.



(above. l-r) Players representing Cranford Troop Tyler Wright, Alex Whitmore, Keegan martin, Julia Linger and Timothy Egenton.

The Cranford Community Center was the site for the Second Annual Boy Scouts Chess Tournament sponsored by White Castle. The tournament was open to all registered Boy Scouts, Venturers and Explorers.

Sean McKeon of Cranford's Troop #80 won third place honors. Second place was won by Jimmy Devine of Dunellen and first place went to Hagan Pereira of Woodbridge, who won all four of his games.

White Castle purchased 20 sets, boards and clocks for Munsee District Boy Scouts and will continue to sponsor the annual event. White Castle is expanding the Chess program with plans to host tournaments in all six Boy Scout Districts in New Jersey.

The company also covered expenses for running the tournament including trophies for the top three winners and ribbons for participants. They also supplied lunch for all players and spectators.

Photos of this and other events can be found at www.renamedia.com and on the Renna Media Facebook page. Feel free to "Like", "Tag", and "Share".



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White Castle sponsored and also donated lunch to all participants and spectators of the Boy Scout Chess Tournament. They were over generous and the Scouts had more hamburgers, cheeseburgers, veggie burgers and chicken and drinks than they could consume.

The balance of the food was delivered to St. Joseph Social Service Center in Elizabeth, NJ,

where it was then distributed to many needy families.

St Joseph Social Service Center serves homeless and needy people in the greater Elizabeth area. Services include a soup kitchen, food pantry, job program, health services, counseling program, advocacy and case management.



(left, l-r) Jim Parlapiano, a Munsee District volunteer of the Boy Scouts of America. First place winner Hagan Pereira, second place winner Jimmy Devine, third place finisher Sean McKeon, and Haskell Wallace of White Castle.



(above) Staff member of St Joseph Social Service Center Carlos Flores receives the donation of four boxes of White Castle sandwiches forwarded by the Munsee District of the Boy Scouts of America.

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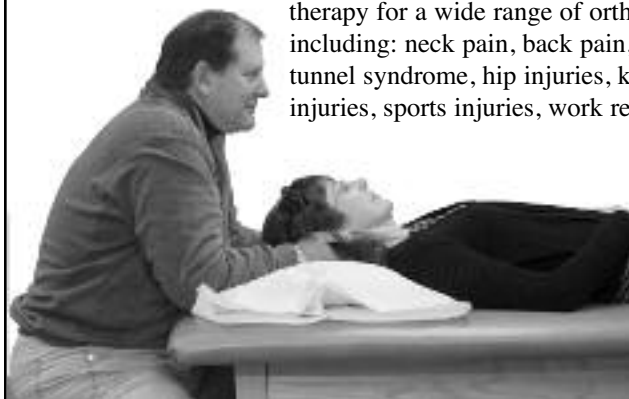
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LOCAL SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS APPLAUD OSCAR WINNERS

While most Americans were focused on the films "Birdman" and "American Sniper" at this year's Academy Awards, a group of about 200 volunteers at a local suicide prevention and crisis intervention hotline were more touched by two obscure winners.

"The Phone Call," a short film about a suicide prevention hotline operator and her distraught caller, won for Best Live Action Short Film. "Crisis Hotline: Veterans Press 1," a documentary about the employees who staff the suicide hotline of the Veterans Administration, took home Best Documentary. Both films are heart-wrenching.

The volunteers of CONTACT We Care understand why these two films garnered such honors. As real-life operators who take the calls of people in crisis, many of whom are suicidal, they understand the emotion that goes into these exchanges – on both ends.

Dean Marsh has been a volunteer listener at CONTACT since December. He recalls one recent call he took toward the end of his shift. He spent two-and-a-half hours talking to the caller.

"What he was feeling at the beginning of the call and at the end of the call was an amazing turnaround," Marsh said. "He told me he didn't know what he would do if someone didn't pick up the phone. He said having someone to talk to really changed his world. You really feel good about yourself when you get off that kind of call and know that you changed or potentially saved a life."

CONTACT We Care, headquartered in Westfield, is a suicide prevention agency that operates a suicide prevention and crisis intervention hotline and provides suicide prevention training to the public, community groups and businesses.

The agency relies on more than 200

volunteers to staff its listening lines and texting services and the hotline is always looking for new volunteers, according to Joanne Oppelt, CONTACT's executive director. Listeners answer about 14,000 calls and texts each year.

"It is so essential that people in crisis or distress have someone they can talk to who will listen in an empathetic and non-judgmental way," Oppelt said. "Our callers come from all walks of life and every socioeconomic level. They are our neighbors and at a dramatic moment of crossroads in their lives, our listeners are here for them. What our listeners give is a remarkable story – Oscar-deserving in itself."

CONTACT volunteers undergo 50 hours of instruction in empathetic and nonjudgmental active listening and mental health issues and go through a two-day intensive session on suicide intervention called ASIST, or Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. Training is followed by an internship on the lines with experienced listeners.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer listener or texter at CONTACT We Care should contact Sue Fasano, director of programs, at 908.301.1899 or sue.fasano@contactwecare.org.

CONTACT We Care also provides training to members of the public, community groups and businesses in suicide awareness and prevention, active listening, mental health first aid and preventing teenage suicide. Anyone interested in learning more about or scheduling training also should contact Fasano.

CONTACT We Care serves Central and Northern New Jersey and is a primary responder to calls to the national suicide prevention line (1-800-273-TALK or 1-800-SUICIDE) that originate in New Jersey. Callers also reach CONTACT by dialing 908-232-2880 or texting "CWC" to 839863.

FREE WORKSHOP: IDENTIFY AND PROTECT YOUR TRADE SECRETS

If you own or manage a business, you have trade secrets. Many small businesses are unaware of the value of a trade secret until it is lost or stolen. Trade secrets are generally some confidential information or knowledge that you do not want your competitors to know, such as customer lists, special discounts, recipes, special process, equipment or formulas.

Protecting trade secrets has now become more complex as they are stored on many platforms such as servers, computers, mobile devices as well as on paper in locked cabinets. Trade secrets may even extend to social media platforms such as LinkedIn® and Facebook®.

The workshop will help the business owner and those starting a business identify the potential trade secrets within their own business and learn the steps to both proactively and retroactively protect their trade secrets.

UCEDC, is a nonprofit economic development corporation. UCEDC training events are free, unless otherwise noted, and are open to all small businesses and entrepreneurs in New Jersey.

Event information: Monday, March 23, 2015 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm, Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Street, Cranford, NJ.

Please register by visiting their website at www.ucedc.com. If you have any questions or problems regarding registration, kindly contact Jerry Phillips, 908-527-1166, x23 or email jphillips@ucedc.com.

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