

Advertisement - scroll for more content

Refrigerate Any Room In 2 Mins
Review Top Portable AC Under \$89 Based Cooling Power, Price, Availability And Reputation.

Consumer Expert Review [Open](#)

SOUTH JERSEY

Woman donates Comey estate's icon to Wenonah

Carly Q. Romalino Courier-Post;
Published 8:47 p.m. ET April 30, 2014 | Updated 5:34 p.m. ET May 1, 2014



Anything not bolted down at Diana Salamone's Wenonah estate was sold to the highest bidder Saturday.

More than 800 buyers left the East Mantua Avenue property after laying claim to an item from the century-old mansion, including the two-ton granite lion that protected its grounds for decades.

The estate was built by Robert Comey in 1901. Salamone, its most recent owner, sold it and an adjoining cottage for [\\$1.1 million](#). New owners from Princeton made settlement on the property Wednesday.

The lion — a borough icon — was pried from its pedestal Monday, lifted by crane into a truck and hauled away.

Advertisement

Health care for the whole family starts on day one.
For part-time employees, too.

amazon
For full-time and part-time employees

Jane Ramsay, a Wenonah native who purchased the statue for \$4,500, made sure it didn't go far. It's sitting in the "sunniest spot" in Wenonah Memorial Park, a half-mile from the estate.

It's a gift to the Wenonah Lions Club and the borough in memory of Ramsay's grandmother and mother, Frances Rode Tucker and Jane Tucker Ramsay, respectively.



Upcoming Auction at Historic Wenonah Home

"I'm just so glad it's staying in Wenonah ... to give back to the town what it has given four generations of Ramsays," the donor said.

Ramsay's grandparents moved to Wenonah in the 1920s after stumbling on the borough Fourth of July parade. Several of her six siblings still live in town, where they're raising the youngest generation of the family.

Advertisement

The Independence Day festival — sponsored by the Wenonah Lions Club — is a century-old tradition, according to club President Sean Tully.

"We still come back for the Fourth of July," said Ramsay, who now lives in Maryland.

Two other bidders edged up the lion's auction price: a Georgia man attempting to buy it for a client in Atlanta and the borough's own Happy Cornell McInnis, whose intentions mirrored Ramsay's.

After Ramsay won the bid, the Cornell family's crane company offered to lift it off the property. Crane operators used handmade levers to shimmy the lion loose from its base, then carefully slid boards under the sculpture to lift it onto a truck for the trip to the park.

The lion's location depends ultimately on council approval.

Advertisement

"For a lot of folks of my age, it's just iconic," said Councilman John Dominy.

"It would have been nice if it stayed at the house. If it's not going to be able to stay at the house, it's nice it's with the borough."

It's unclear how long the lion has been on the property. Ramsay is researching its history.

The Lions Club accepted the donation and will likely assume responsibility for the statue if council votes to keep it at the borough-owned park.

"It was a very generous thing," Tully enthused. "(Council) is going to approve it. They love it."

He sees the granite lion as a future cornerstone of the park.

Once its location is settled, the club will build a pedestal.

"We want kids to climb it. We want people to take pictures with it," Ramsay said.

Advertisement

Already, she's spotted borough teens taking "selfies" with the statue.

"We want teenagers to have their first kiss at the lion."

Reach Carly Q. Romalino at (856) 486-2476 or cromalino@cpsj.com



training in tech during your shift
Put the 'earn' in 'learn'

amazon
For full-time and part-time employees

We're always working to improve your experience. Let us know what you think.

Advertisement

Advertisement

Advertisement

Enhance Mats **TUNNEL ARMOR** [LEARN MORE](#)