

CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ

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CRANFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

On March 12 at the Hanson House in Cranford, the 2016 Cranford Residential Preservation Award was presented to Jim and Julie Murphy, and the Cranford Commercial Preservation Award was presented to Lynn Suga-Rafanelli of Just4Pooches. The Award is sponsored jointly by the Cranford Historical Society and the Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB).

In presenting the awards, Maureen Strazdon, Chair of the Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board, noted both historic and current connections between the buildings that weren't known when the awardees were chosen. Historically, in 1899, Mr. F.W. Hunter, who built the Murphy's house, bought property in the area where Just4Pooches now stands, and so he may have owned the land. Currently, the architect on both buildings was Ronald Meeks of Cranford, and the construction was done by Siano Brothers Contracting of Cranford.

The Residential Award given to Jim and Julie Murphy was for their work on their house at 302 Prospect Avenue. The house was built in 1897 at a cost of \$20,000 by owner Fred W. Hunter as part of the Roosevelt Manor section of town. Mr Hunter died in 1903, and the house was purchased by a Mr. Woodling that same year for \$7,550. It is an eclectic blend of Roman, Greek, and Flemish classical styles. The interior features a circular center hall with receiving parlor and main living room to the right and library and dining room to the left, and kitchen, butler's pantry and maid's staircase in the rear. The house was purchased in 2003 by the Murphys, and in 2005, based on extensive research and old photos, they started the restoration project to return it to its original look. The entire process took 10 years.

The Commercial Award was presented to Lynn Suga-Rafanelli, owner of Just4Pooches at 208 North Avenue West. The house was built in 1875 near the intersection of North Avenue West and Orchard Street. It's unclear who lived in the building early on since the first listing for an occupant of the house in the Cranford Directory is in 1906, a Joseph Richards. Ms. Suga-Rafanelli bought the building in 2014. She restored the exterior of the house to its former glory, adding whimsical touches such as the dog bones integrated into the porch design. In 2015 Lynn moved her pet emporium, Just4Pooches, from North Union Avenue to the house.

The Cranford Historical Society and the Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board salute the Murphys and Ms. Suga-Rafanelli for their interest in preservation and their efforts to preserve the character of Cranford.

Founded in 1927, the Cranford Historical Society is a private organization whose mission is to preserve and



(above, l-r) Jim and Julie Murphy with Maureen Strazdon.



(above, l-r) Lynn Suga-Rafanelli with Maureen Strazdon.

perpetuate the history of Cranford. The Society operates the Crane-Phillips House on Union Avenue North, and is headquartered at the Hanson House on Springfield Avenue.

For more information, visit
www.cranfordhistoricalsociety.com.

The Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB) is a Township committee established in 1993. HPAB's mission is to aid in the preservation of Cranford's architectural heritage through documentation of significant structures, education of the public as to the value of preservation, and advice to the Township on laws and activities impacting preservation. You can find more information on HPAB at www.preservcranford.com.

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Reserve space in the next issue. Call Tina today at 908-418-5586 or email info@rennamedia.com

GIRL SCOUTS TO HOST SCHOLARSHIP PANCAKE BREAKFAST ON APRIL 9TH

The Girl Scouts of Cranford will host its annual scholarship pancake breakfast on Saturday, April 9th from 8:00-10:00a.m. at Applebee's in the new Clark Commons. All proceeds from the breakfast are used for a scholarship program that benefits current members of the Girl Scouts of Cranford. There were six recipients last year.

Tickets are \$10.00 per-person and meals include pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs and a beverage.

Please contact omhaub@haubi.us or call 908-789-7531 to purchase tickets.

Girl Scouts is the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls - all girls - where, in an accepting and nurturing environment, girls build character and skills for success in the real world. In partnership with committed adult volunteers, girls develop qualities that will serve them all their lives.

For over 100 years, its membership has been unified towards the achievement of the Girl Scout mission: "To build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place."

The Girl Scouts of Cranford boasts 1,068 Girl Scout Members in 65 troops and Juliette's making it one of the largest non-profit organizations in town. The Cranford Service Unit is a part of the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey (GSHNJ) Council which is part of the Girl Scouts of the USA.

If your family is interested in learning more about local Girl Scouts or to find out more information on the Girls Scouts of Cranford, please visit www.cranfordgirlscouts.com.

GSHNJ serves over 25,000 girls, ages 5-17 and 11, 000 adult members in the counties of Hudson, Essex, Union, Somerset, Hunterdon, southern Warren and parts of Middlesex.

A LESSON IN TERRARIUM CONSTRUCTION

On Monday, April 18, the Floraphile Garden Club of Cranford will be visiting Parker Gardens in Scotch Plains from 12:30-2:00 PM for a lesson in terrarium construction. A member of the Parker Gardens staff will instruct us on how to choose the best plants, soil and containers in order to create a lovely terrarium. Everyone will have the opportunity to ask questions of their horticulturists and get inspired by their selection of plants and accessories. This is guaranteed to be an informative program.

Parker Gardens is located at 1325 Terrill Road in Scotch Plains. Guests are welcome to join us for this free event. Consider this a perfect opportunity to come "grow" with us.

If you are interested in joining the Floraphile Garden Club of Cranford or for more information on upcoming events, please feel free to contact Mary Ellen at mecrafts@verizon.net. Or like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/floraphilegardenclub](https://www.facebook.com/floraphilegardenclub).


GARDEN CLUB GARAGE SALE

On Saturday, April 30 from 9AM-3PM, the Floraphile Garden Club of Cranford will be hosting a garage sale fundraiser at 530 Orchard St. in Cranford. Come on out to find a great selection of household goods, clothes, toys, books, CDs, etc. Proceeds from this fundraiser support the Floraphile Garden Club of Cranford and their involvement in numerous community service projects, beautification programs, charitable donations and horticultural therapy.

Founded in 1950, Floraphile has been an active and integral part of the Cranford community for over 60 years. Members participate in many exciting workshops, informative presentations and garden tours.

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CHRISTIAN ROBINSON AND BAILEY CROFT WIN POETRY AND SHORT STORY CONTEST

7 THINGS YOU MUST KNOW BEFORE PUTTING YOUR HOME UP FOR SALE

Cranford NJ - A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of homesellers don't get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and - worse - financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

As this report uncovers, most homesellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar".

To order a FREE Special Report, visit www.njhomesellermistakes.com or to hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-888-243-5861 and enter 2002.

You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to find out how you can get the most money for your home.

This report is courtesy of All Towne Realty Realtor. Not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract. Copyright © 2014

The Women's Club of Westfield has announced the winners for its 2016 Youth Poetry and Short Story Contest. There were four categories each section: Grades K-1-2, Grades 3-4-5, Grades 6-7-8, and Grades 9-10-11-12.

The Poetry winner for Grades 6-7-8 was Cranford resident Christian Robinson, son of Amy and David for his poem, "Maine." Christian is a sixth grade student at Orange Avenue School.

The Short Stories Winner for Grades 6-7-8 was Cranford's Bailey Croft, daughter of Tracy and Jason Croft for her short story, "The New Girl." Bailey is also a sixth grade student at Orange Avenue School.

The ladies of the Women's Club of Westfield are pleased and happy to congratulate these winning students and their families! The winning

poems and short stories have been sent on to be judged at the state level by the New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs.



(above, l-r) Christian Robinson and Bailey Croft

"EVENING OF SHINING STARS" APRIL 15TH

Shining Stars of Cranford is preparing for their 5th annual "Evening of Shining Stars." This year's show, "A Disney Spectacular", will be held on Friday night, April 15th, 7:15pm, at Cranford High School. The evening offers incredible entertainment, featuring the talented special needs children of Cranford, as well as their buddies. Be prepared to laugh, cry and enjoy an uplifting evening on entertainment.

Shining Stars is a non-profit group organized in 2012 by a staff of volunteers and comprised of Cranford special needs students who love to act, sing, and dance. The group provides an avenue for these children to enhance their theatrical skills and to participate in months of practices and rehearsals in preparation for a night of true entertainment. Our goal is to educate and raise

awareness and funds to enhance the lives of people with developmental disabilities. We also strive for inclusion, and encourage our cast members to invite their friends and family to participate. Most of all, we strive to give these amazing, talented children, a platform of their own to truly shine, which isn't always possible within a mainstream environment. Over the past several months, our children have been working very hard to give their audience the most amazing show possible. Proceeds from the show go to the ARC of Union County, Special Olympics of New Jersey, and a scholarship fund for graduating special needs student furthering their education. For ticket information, email ShiningStarsofCranford@gmail.com or call (908)272-4516.

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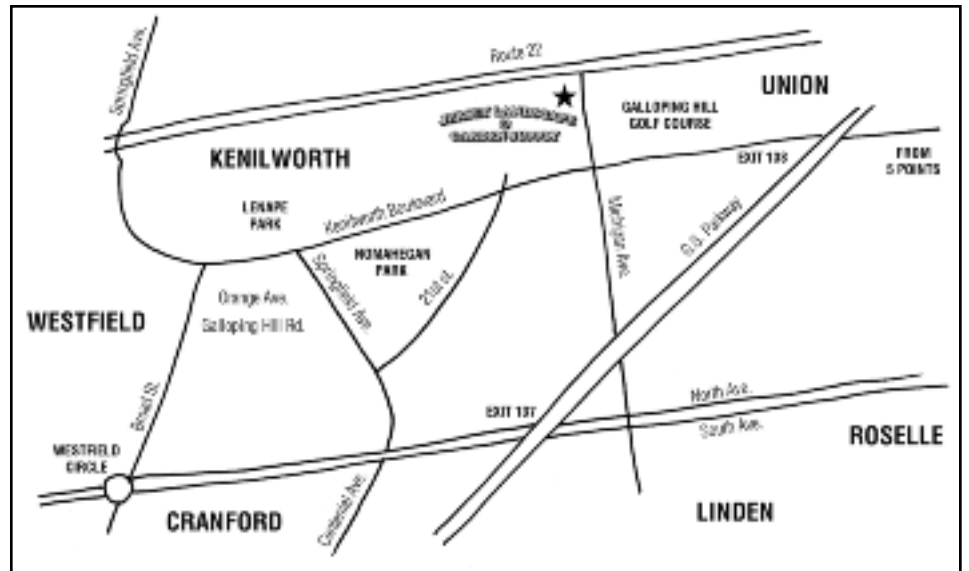
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SPRING PROGRAM OPENINGS AT THE REC & PARKS DEPT.

The Cranford Recreation & Parks Department is pleased to announce there are still openings in our Spring 2016 programs. The openings are in classes listed below:

PRE SCHOOL AND KINDER PROGRAMS

- All Sports for Kids, Fridays With My First Friends, Kinder Gym, Kinder Tots, Kinder Bookclub, Kinder Yoga, Kinder Cooking & Arts & Crafts, Mommy & Me Music, Pre-school Arts & Crafts, Science Matters

YOUTH PROGRAMS

- Cool Chemistry, Electronic Game Design, Elementary Cooking, Fashion First Workshop, Fun with Physics, Golf for Juniors, Jr. Rock – Intro to Rock Camp, Guitar/Keyboard 101, Kid Safe Self Defense, Kids Sewing, Lego Robotics, Lights!Camera!Kids!Action!, Little Baker's Workshop, Minecraft, Schoolhouse Chess (NEW), Science Matters, Scrapbooking, Spring Break Mini Sewing Camp (NEW), Quilting (Beginners)

ADULT PROGRAMS

- Beginner Quilting, Body Barre, Cardio Kickboxing (NEW), Piano, Power Yoga, Scrapbooking, TRX Suspension (NEW), Yoga
- Classes are for Cranford Residents only. For additional information, please call Community Center at 908-709-7283.

POOL & FITNESS CENTER LIFEGUARD COURSE

To participate in the Lifeguard course, you must be able to pass a pre-requisite skills evaluation.

PRETEST:

Monday, April 11 from 7:30pm – 9:00pm.
Please bring a swimsuit and towel for the skills evaluation and for every class.

CLASS MEETS:

Tuesdays and Thursdays evenings from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm at the Cranford Pool & Fitness Center, 401 Centennial Ave., Cranford, NJ.

CLASS DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

4/12, 4/14, 4/19, 4/21, 4/26, 4/28, 5/3, 5/5

Fee is \$250 for members and \$300 for non-members

To enroll in the Lifeguarding course, you must be at least 15 years old.

The Pre-requisite skills evaluation includes the following:

1. Swim 100 yards continuously with head-up (including 50 yds with a rescue tube).

2. Swim 200 yards continuously of breaststroke and freestyle. Swim goggles may be used.
3. Tread water for 2 minutes using only the legs. You should place your hands under your armpits.
4. Complete a timed event within 1 minute, 40 seconds. Swim goggles are not allowed.
 - Starting in the water, swim 20 yards. Your face may be in or out of the water.
 - Surface dive, feet-first or head-first, to a depth of 7 to 10 feet to retrieve a 10-pound object.
 - Return to the surface and swim 20 yards on your back to return to the starting point with both hands holding the object while keeping your face at or near the surface so you are able to get a breath. You should not swim the distance under water. Exit the water without using a ladder or steps.

Please contact Anne Dolan at a-dolan@cranfordnj.org or 908-709-7262 with any questions.

CRANFORD RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT (NEW ADULT CARDIO KICKBOXING)

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department is pleased to announce the NEW class for adults, Cardio Kickboxing.

Cardio Kickboxing is a High energy workout perfect for blowing off stress and burning some serious calories. Combines cardio and strength exercises with boxing and marital arts, providing a full body workout. Also improves flexibility, coordination, and balance.

The class is for Cranford residents only, ages 18 years and up. It will meet 9:15 am – 10:15 am on Tuesdays, starting April 5 – May 24, 2016 at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.. The cost is \$80.

Registration may be done in person at the Cranford Community Center. For additional information, please call Community Center at 908-709-7283.



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GERARD PARADISO SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

The Friends of the Cranford Public Library are offering the Gerard Paradiso Scholarship to a Cranford resident who is currently pursuing or intends to pursue a graduate degree in library information science or media specialist. Named in honor of former Friends of the Library President Gerard Paradiso, the scholarship is worth \$1,000. The award is not based on need. The candidate must furnish proof of acceptance to an accredited university, a letter of reference, and an essay. Applications have been available at the Cranford Public Library reference desk since March 1. Completed applications should be returned to The Friends of the Cranford Public Library, P.O. Box 400, Cranford, NJ 07016. The deadline to apply is May 2, 2016.

THEATER PROJECT PRESENTS READINGS OF FOUR SHORT PLAYS

The Theater Project will present staged readings of four short plays, "Après la Fête" and "The Butler's Pantry" by Joseph Vitale, "Going Postal" by Ed Lataro, and "The Turtle and the Woman" by Mary Jane Walsh, on Saturday, April 16, at 2:00 p.m. in the Cranford Community Center. The Community Center is located at 220 Walnut Avenue. In "Après la Fête," a young couple cleans up after a cocktail party at their home, but more than the glasses need sorting out. In "The Butler's Pantry," a couple discovers an old photograph on the evening of their anniversary. The photograph ties them to the past in ways they had not imagined. Joseph Vitale, a semi-finalist for the 2012 Eugene O'Neill/National Playwrights Conference Award, is the author of several plays, including Murrow, which will be produced Off-Broadway at the Phoenix Theatre Ensemble in May. In "Going Postal," Bob, a postal worker, can no longer tolerate the years of abuse heaped upon him by

his supervisor. Ed Lataro has had several plays produced in New York, including Not in Kansas Anymore and Otto's Fortune. In "The Turtle and the Woman," the joy of birth, the perils of life, and the meaning of friendship create an enduring bond between two women who meet at the edge of the woods in the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Mary Jane Walsh's other plays include Ping, My Sister's Back Is Killing Me, and Finishing it Off! A native of Elizabeth, Ms. Walsh lives in Basking Ridge and is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America.

The Theater Project is an acclaimed, New Jersey-based professional theater group and the winner of two New Jersey Tony Awards. Following the performances, the audience will have the opportunity to discuss the plays with the authors.

The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. Admission is free and all are welcome.

SOCIAL SECURITY SEMINARS

The Cranford Public Library invites you to join John Garretson and Jamie Miller of Garretson Financial as they answer key questions about Social Security and how you can maximize your benefit in retirement. Entitled "Can You Afford to Retire? Savvy Social Security Planning," the program will take place on Wednesday, April 20, at 3:00 p.m. and again at 7:00 p.m. in the Cranford Community Center. The Community Center is located at 220 Walnut Avenue.

Topics to be covered include: the amount of

Social Security you can receive over your lifetime; changes in marital status; and taking advantage of spousal, survivor, and divorced spouse benefits. John Garretson worked at Smith Barney and Paine Weber before founding Garretson Financial in 2004. Jamie Miller has been a Managing Director at Garretson Financial for eight years and has more than 19 years of experience in the financial services industry. Admission to the program is free and all are welcome.

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BROOKSIDE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR: HOME-GROWN SUCCESS STORY

When Rosemary Scholz of Middletown was selected as Educator of the Year 2015-2016 at Brookside Place School (BPS) in Cranford, it was a little like a homecoming celebration. That's because even though Scholz, formerly of Cranford, has been teaching at BPS for 14 years, she is teaching 5th grade in the same classroom



(above, r-l) Brookside Place School principal Michael Klimko congratulates fifth grade teacher, Rosemary Scholz of Middletown, on being named BPS' Educator of the Year 2015-2016. Scholz teaches in the same classroom she once sat in as a student.

where she attended as a 5th grader several years ago.

"I attended Brookside Place School as a child. In college, I was assigned to BPS as a student teacher, and I was excited to be assigned to the same 5th grade classroom where I was once a student. It was surreal – I even found my 5th grade dictionary where I wrote my name inside the front cover," said Mrs. Scholz. "It's great to give back. Brookside is my home."

Mrs. Scholz was nominated for BPS Educator of the Year by (parents and fellow teachers). A graduate of Seton Hall University, Mrs. Scholz brings her love of Brookside with her right into the classroom.

"Each day, my goal is to give each child the best day you can. I make a concerted effort to talk to every student multiple times per day, and in different ways, as a teacher, counselor, facilitator, and advisor," she noted. "I'm fortunate to be given the flexibility to change the way my classroom operates. We use lots of movement, including yoga balls, bikes under the students' desks and drafting tables. Every day is something new."

"The nominations truly described the impact each nominee continues to make each and every day," praised Michael Klimko, Principal of BPS, adding that all of those in district recipients are recognized at a future Board of Education meeting.

All district Educators of the Year may move on to be recognized at the State level. All nominees were highlighted for their ability to provide a unique experience to students in the classroom. Encouraging children to share their thoughts is also a strategy that Mrs. Scholz employs for student success.

"All children should have a voice and a choice in their education," she noted. "With new subject matter, my students and I discuss together how we can approach the new subject and my students openly share their opinions."

One of my current students had an interest in the barrel-eyed fish. She encouraged the student to go online to learn more about the fish, and later assisted the 5th grader into reaching out to an ichthyologist on a ship in the Pacific Ocean.

She concluded, "We work to set that bar high, and these students will reach for it – it's magical."

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATED BY CRANFORD DAR

March was National Women's History month, an annual celebration that highlights the contributions of women in our society. During a meeting held March 12th at the Cranford Community Center the Crane's Ford chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution honored Cynthia A. Dawley, a Cranford artist, with the NSDAR Women in the Arts National

Recognition Award.

The purpose of the Women in the Arts Recognition Award is to recognize and honor a woman who has made significant achievements at the community level in her artistic field. The recipient is expected to have contributed to her artistic field in an outstanding manner beyond mastery of technique. The NSDAR criteria for

this award are strict, and not all nominations are successful.

Cindy Dawley started painting nearly 30 years ago and today she continues to paint in her father's studio in Cranford. Her father, Joseph Dawley, was a renowned artist for which he received prestigious awards. Major collectors acquired his work including University of Notre Dame and the Mayo Clinic. Many of Cindy's paintings depict scenes around Cranford and the surrounding towns. She has often been commissioned to paint a particular scene for clients.

At the DAR meeting Ms. Dawley presented a slide presentation of her art and spoke about her father and the influence he had on her becoming the artist she is today.

Also celebrated was the chapter's 72nd Anniversary. Crane's Ford Chapter was organized on March 7, 1944 in Cranford. The chapter is one of 48 DAR chapters in NJ.



(above, l-r) Carolyn Youngs, Program Chair, Mary Leonard, Regent & Cynthia Dawley.



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TAMBORLANE JOINS THE THEATRE PROJECT

The Theatre Project of New Jersey, a non profit organization, is presenting "You Make My Frame Shake," a play by Luigi Jannuzi about spending a night at the Metropolitan Museum after it closes! Cranford Artist, Theodosia A. G. Tamborlane, will present a variety of paintings and prints to grace the theater and reception areas for this play on Saturday, April 30th at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 1 at 2:00p.m.

The play will be performed in the large, special community room at the Unity Bank at 952 Stuyvesant Ave. in Union, NJ. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Tickets are available at the website: thetheaterproject.org with a credit card or at the door with cash/credit card.

Since 2008 Ms. Tamborlane has had her paintings shown in 93 exhibitions in New York City, New Jersey, Florida, and Pennsylvania. She will be at the Bank one hour before each performance and afterward to answer questions while attendees view her paintings. Her website is Tamborlane.com and her email is Tamborlane@aol.com.



(above) "Toys and Games VII"



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SOUTH AFRICA? SOFTBALL?

Melissa A Moreno, of Cranford heads to Cape Town, South Africa this summer to play Softball.

Melissa, daughter of Juan and Patti Moreno has been selected to represent USA and Ramapo College of NJ, NCAA Division III Softball in Cape Town, South Africa from June 19-July 1, 2016.

Melissa continued her softball career from Cranford High School at Ramapo College of NJ in Mahwah. Melissa will be graduating this

spring with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. Melissa continued her starting position as catcher in each of her freshman, sophomore, junior and senior years at Ramapo. Her junior year was a standout year earning her to be named the top catcher on the ECAC Division III Metro All-Star Team, NJAC First Team All-Conference and First Team All Region. Melissa was a star contributor to the Team's first win in school history of the NJAC Softball Champions 2015.





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The Sixth Annual Firefighter Cookoff and Food and Wine Tasting was held on February 29, 2016 at the Pines Manor in Edison, New Jersey. Over thirty-five restaurants, bakeries and caterers, twenty-five tables of wines, spirits, liquors and cordials and the Firefighter Cookoff involving twenty fire departments from around the State will get together for an evening of good eats, good spirits for a good cause.

The event featured a cook off pitting teams of firefighters against each to be judges for thier culinary skills. The event was started by Robert Hill, retired Fire Chief of Roselle, NJ. What started as a lighthearted competition for bragging rights has turned into a major fundraiser for The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas sponsored by the New Jersey State Fireman's Mutual Benevolent Association.

Though the event had a party atmosphere there is some serious cooking going on. The event originally was to choose the team with the best "Firehouse Food", quickly made dishes that can fill the hearty appetite of firefighters on duty. Over the years the dishes that were being prepared were elevating out of the realm of firehouse food and so a gourmet category was added to the competition. Now half of the teams, determined by lottery, compete in the fire house food category while the other half compete in the gourmet category. Then an over all winner is

crowned.

Shifts are twenty four hours long so the need for breakfast, lunch and dinner is a daily concern. Usually the task of cooking is shared amongst the firefighters unless there is some one who loves to cook and then the rest are usually in for a treat. The teams are given gift cards donated by Shoprite with a \$500 limit to get the supplies they need for the cook-off.

Besides the judged competition the public got to vote for their favorite Firefighter Chef. Everyone who attended, approximately one thousand people, got to vote for their own People's Choice Award. More information can be found on line at cookedanduncorked.com or by calling 973-322-4305.



Above) Cranford Fire Department Cook-Off team.

TAKE US TO YOUR READER

The Readers' Forum, the lively, long-running book discussion group of the Cranford Public Library, will meet to discuss *All the Light We Cannot See* (2014), a novel by Anthony Doerr on Monday, April 25, at 7:00 p.m. in the library's Fridlington Room.

The library is located at 224 Walnut Avenue. The group welcomes new members at any time.

According to a review that appeared in *Library Journal*, *All the Light We Cannot See* "has the physical and emotional heft of a masterpiece. The main protagonists are brave, sensitive, and intellectually curious, and in another time they might have been a couple. But they are on opposite sides of the horrors of World War II, and their fates ultimately collide in connection with the radio-a means of resistance for the Allies and

just one more avenue of annihilation for the Nazis. Set mostly in the final year of the war but moving back to the 1930s and forward to the present, the novel presents two characters so interesting and sympathetic that readers will keep turning the pages hoping for an impossibly happy ending. Marie-Laure and Werner both suffer crushing losses and struggle to survive with dignity amid Hitler's swath of cruelty and destruction."

The Readers' Forum will also meet on Monday, May 23, to discuss *In the Unlikely Event* (2015) by Judy Blume.

For more information, please call the library at 908-709-7272, or send an email to library@cranfordnj.org.

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CASA RACES TO REACH FOSTER YOUTH

Lace up your sneakers, Cranford folks, and step up to change the life of an abused, neglected or abandoned Union County child placed in foster care. It's easier than you think! On Saturday, May 14, 2016, CASA of Union County will host its second annual Foster the Dream 5k Run and 1 Mile Walk right here at Oak Ridge Park to raise awareness of the need for community volunteers to serve as Court Appointed Special Advocates, and to raise funds to expand recruitment and training efforts.

Life in foster care — and the circumstances that led to it — is no walk in the park, but your walk or run in the park can change that! CASA of Union County currently serves 155 of the 600 youth in care; your participation brings waiting foster youth closer to having a CASA volunteer of their own. Appointed by family judges, trained CASA volunteers serve foster youth by advocating in court and the community to ensure needs are being met and best interests are a priority.

The race course is USATF-certified and awards are given to the first-place male and female finisher, as well as runners in the following age brackets: 10 and under, 11-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60+. The morning includes raffle prizes for the winning — tickets are \$5 — and such post-race sustenance as fruit, bagels and water aplenty.

Check-in and packet pick-up begins 7:30 am race day; the 1 mile walk begins at 9 am and the 5k run at 9:30 am. High-quality performance race shirts are guaranteed to all paid registrants through April 20. Registration is \$25 for the run and \$20 for the walk; \$5 more after April 15. Children under 10 are free.

Ready, set, go! Register yourself, your family and your friends at www.fosterthedream.org, taking the first steps toward changing the life of an abused, neglected or abandoned child from Union County. Contact Jen Mutch, race chair and CASA board member, at (917) 453-5415 or jcdowntown@hotmail.com with questions.

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CRANFORD SCOUTS HOST CHESS TOURNAMENT

The Munsee District of the boy Scouts sponsored their third annual Chess Tournament on February 27, 2016. The Cranford Community Center was the site for the Tournament sponsored by White Castle. The tournament was open to all registered Boy Scouts, Venturers and Explorers. White Castle purchased 20 sets,

boards and clocks for Munsee District Boy Scouts. 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. Twenty three Scouts played, nine from Cranford.



Trevor Martin



Keith Brown



Arnav Kondagunta



Keegan Martin



Tim Garcia



Michele Lancellotti



Tim Joyce



Jake D'Amico



Pranav Kondagunta



Thanks to White Castle Suzanne Bailey

CRANFORD RESIDENT LINDA ROSEN ARTWORK WINS CONTEST



The Gateway Family YMCA – Rahway Branch Artist Loft tenant, Linda Rosen recently won the “Art Outside the Box” contest in Union County. She received accolades from the mayor of Rahway and local freeholders, as well as a monetary prize. The “Art Outside the Box” project allowed local artists to display their work and increase visibility for the Arts in Union County by decorating local traffic control boxes. Linda’s artwork, titled “Corner of Mapes & Bergen” is visible in downtown Rahway on the corner of Milton Avenue and Lawrence Avenue.

Linda Rosen, a Cranford resident was one of the first tenants to secure an Artist Loft work space at the Rahway Branch following the recent YMCA renovations.

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA – Rahway Branch visit www.tgfymca.org or contact the Rahway Branch at Rahwayinfo@tgfymca.org or 732-388-0057.

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RIVER AND RAIL CANTINA NETWORKING

by Dottie Baniewicz, Executive Director

On March 16, 2016 the Cranford Chamber of Commerce held a very successful second luncheon Networking Event at the River and Rail Cantina at 230 South Avenue, E. in Cranford.

Forty members and guests attended the event. The Guest Speaker was Robin Hoy of PuroClean Restoration Services, 107 Centennial Avenue, Cranford who discussed "Is Your Business Prepared For A Disaster?". She gave an excellent presentation to the group along with an informative slide show, which everyone enjoyed.

These monthly chamber networking events are open to members and all future members. If you are interested in attending please call the Cranford Chamber of Commerce at 908-272-6114. The Chamber would like to thank John Roder from River and Rail Cantina for the delicious lunch that was served and for their hospitality.

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Community Room
Located on the First Floor

Join the New Jersey Foundation for Open Government (NJFOG) the evening of April 26, 2016 for a discussion of the state's open public records and meetings laws.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the laws that provide public access to government meetings and documents and that allow citizens greater insight into the operations of state and local governments in New Jersey.

The seminar is free and open to everyone, so please help us spread the word and feel free to bring your questions on April 26. Handouts and light refreshments will be provided.

Please let us know you will be attending by registering via email to info@njfog.org.

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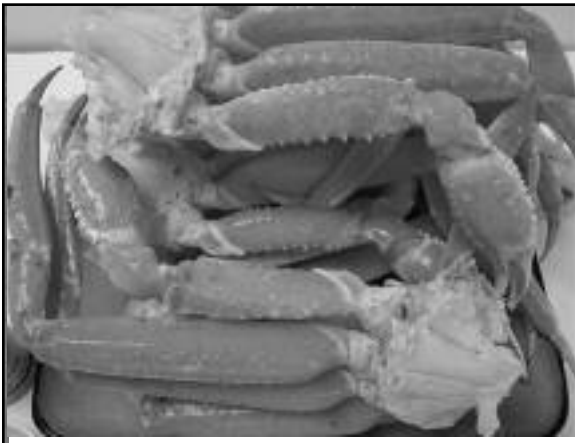
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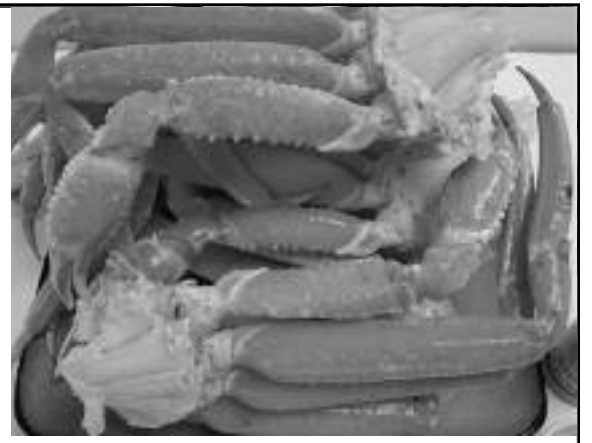
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