

# CRANFORD MONTHLY<sub>NJ</sub>

Published by Renna Media

Issue 29 • May 2016

## CRANFORD CHAMBER NETWORKING LUNCHEON

Wednesday

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Noon

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## CRANFORD VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED BY GIRLS SCOUTS

During a dinner held on April 12th at Doubletree by Hilton Somerset Hotel and Conference Center, The Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey (GSHNJ) honored members of the Girl Scouts of Cranford Service Unit. Recognized for their substantial contributions, the following individuals were awarded:

- GSHNJ Dedicated Leader Award - Anne Caldwell, Teresa Gathercole, Lauren Ramsay
- GSHNJ Rookie of the Year Award - Faith Dzurovcik McDevitt
- GSHNJ Volunteer of Excellence Award - Lisa Durant, Kristin Santos, Erin Esteves, Alexandra Paulyson, Elayna Torsonne and Olivia Haub

GSHNJ staff presented the awards that evening, honoring hundreds of volunteers throughout the region. The Dedicated Leader Award recognizes a troop/group leader, assistant leader or coordinator for continued outstanding performance working with girls. The Rookie of the Year Award recognizes a troop/group leader, assistant leader, troop volunteer, or SU volunteer for outstanding performance during their first year of service. The Volunteer of Excellence award recognizes those volunteers who have contributed outstanding service

while partnering directly with girls in any pathway to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) through use of the National Program Portfolio (Journeys), or who have contributed outstanding service in support of the council's mission delivery to girl and adult members.

Girl Scouts is the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to 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 over 1,000 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 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 <http://www.cranfordgirlscouts.com>.

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(above, standing, l-r) Teresa Gathercole, Lauren Ramsey, Erin Esteves, Alexandra Paulyson, Anne Caldwell, Olivia Hauc, Faith Dzurovcik McDevitt  
(kneeling, l-r) Kristin Santos and Lisa Durant



(above, r-l) Faith Dzurovcik McDevitt with her daughter Grace

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# CRANFORD MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

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## SEND US YOUR NEWS

Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (accomplishment, honor, award, etc.). Do you have an event that you need help publicizing? Then send Cranford Monthly your news!

**Call: 908-418-5586**

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The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department is pleased to announce its annual Memorial Day Parade will take place on Monday, May 30th. Line up begins at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Avenue in Cranford at 8:30am and marching commences at 9:00 am ending with a traditional memorial ceremony at

Memorial Park on Springfield Avenue between Riverside Drive and Central Avenue at 10 am. In case of inclement weather, services only will be held at the Cranford Community Center at 10:00 am. For further information, please call the Recreation and Parks Department at (908) 709-7283.

## THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE COMMITTEE ENCOURAGES PARADE CROWDS TO FOLLOW THE PARADE TO THE CEREMONY

*Written by Don Sweeney new member of the Memorial Day Parade committee*

The Township of Cranford's respect to the fallen heroes of American war heroes is displayed each year through the annual Memorial Day parade and the emotional ceremony that directly follows it at Memorial Park on the corner of Springfield and Central Avenues. For those who have made the ceremony at Memorial Park part of their Memorial Day morning, year after year, the reason to be there is evident. For those who have never attended, allow us to share why we feel it is time that you may consider giving an hour to the memories of these fine men and woman that have given the ultimate sacrifice so that we as American citizens can live the privileged life that we enjoy every day.

Where there are so many reasons why we love living in Cranford, the one that stands out to me is that it is a small American town that has such deep roots into American history. There is no time throughout the year that allows us to display those attributes more than on Memorial Day.

The ceremony starts with a song from the Cranford High School band and another by the Madrigals ensemble. Next a middle school student that has been selected through a contest, recites from memory Lincoln's Gettysburg Address followed by the reading of the 86 names of Cranford's own war heroes that have given their lives so that we can enjoy ours. This was done in some years, by Cranford American

Veterans who have known the faces of some these young men earlier in their lives. A series of wreaths are now laid at the war memorials in the park and a solemn 21 gun salute is presented as a wreath is floated in the Rahway River for those heroes lost at sea. This portion of the ceremony ends with an emotional playing of taps.

At this point the Grand Marshal of the parade, usually a Cranford resident selected for their service to our country, speaks about what Memorial Day means to them. These speakers have been remembered by me for years to follow. A short prayer from a Cranford clergy and a performance of God Bless America puts a wrap to an amazing morning in Cranford NJ.

It all takes less than an hour, an hour that our family has never missed since we moved to Cranford 25 years ago.

If you have lived in Cranford and never witnessed this, what makes Cranford different from most every community, then you should consider picking up your chair from along the parade route and follow the parade. You'll experience the trail through our town's beautiful streets to the patriotically decorated Memorial park. There you will be part of the Americana that makes Cranford a special place to live. Put your chair down on the beautiful lawn and enjoy Cranford. You'll be glad you did. I'll see you there.



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### 11 CRITICAL HOME INSPECTION TRAPS TO BE AWARE OF WEEKS BEFORE LISTING YOUR HOME FOR SALE

Cranford NJ - According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

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 3002. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Get your free special report NOW to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the sale of your home.

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

## AUTHOR-HISTORIAN TO PRESENT PROGRAM FOR CRANFORD DAR

*Crane's Ford chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will have Donald J. Peck present a program on "George Washington & the Ghosts of the Revolution in NJ" on Saturday May 14th at 1pm at the Cranford Community Center 220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford.*

New Jersey has been hailed as the "Crossroads of the American Revolution". This is a fitting designation, given that General George Washington spend the majority of his time in the colony, and engaged the British in several decisive battles within its borders. A large portion of the War for Independence may be said to have been won in the counties of Middlesex, Somerset, Monmouth and Mercer, where shifting loyalties and local resistance on both sides presented a constant challenge to the combatants.

Donald Peck is a trustee for the League of NJ

Historical Societies; immediate Past President of the Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance, Inc., Somerset, NJ and past Commissioner for the Woodbridge Historic Preservation Commission. A direct descendant of six signers of the Mayflower Compact, active memberships include the Society of Mayflowers Descendants in the State of NJ and several state and national historical organization.

The public is invited to attend this presentation, and Mr. Peck will have his books available for purchase.

## CRANFORD'S SUMMER CAMP KIDZ KLUB

Cranford Pool & Fitness Center offers Kidz Klub, a weekly day camp for its members, ages 5-10, as well as 11 yrs. old siblings or graduates of Kidz Klub.

The camp emphasizes outdoor play and pool activities. The children also participate in arts & crafts and a weekly bus trip. Tuition includes the trip, camp t-shirts, backpack, a protective swimshirt and snacks.

Camp hours are 8:00am to 5:30pm. Early drop-off at 7:00am and late pick-up to 6:30pm are available for \$5.00 per hr.

This year, Kidz Klub will run for 10 weeks from June 20 to Aug. 26. Tuition for 1-2 weeks

is \$200 per week per child. For 3-5 weeks, it is \$190 per week, and for 6-10 weeks it is \$180 per week. Additional children are discounted 10%. A 20% deposit is required with the registration forms and a \$75 registration fee. The balance is due by June 7, 2016.

Registration packets are available in the Fitness Center at the Centennial Ave complex or on-line at [www.cranford.com/pool](http://www.cranford.com/pool). Click on "Forms", then on "KK". Registration must be in person. Hours are Monday – Friday from 8:30am-3:30pm.

For additional hours or more information, please call Sally at 908-709-7260 ext. 2307.

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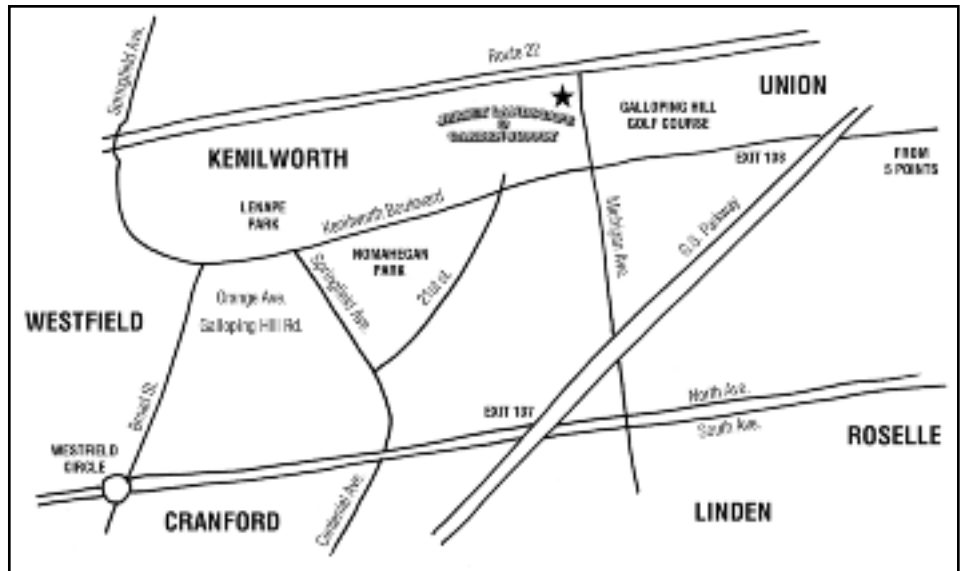
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# KEIRAN HOLLANDER AND MATHEW WOMELSDORF ON GOLD WINNING TEAM

Keiran Hollander and Mathew Womelsdorf of Cranford playing for NJ Youth Devils Bantam B hockey team from South Mountain Arena brought home the GOLD from Lake Placid in the CAN/AM tournament against Bethlehem Eagles from NY 3-1.



(above, Back Row, l-r): Coach Paul (holding the torch), Jack Fischer (equip mgr), William Schneider, Matthew Pupko (goalie coach), Hugh Zanelli, Matthew Womelsdorf, James Cummings, Michael Bonomo (holding the plaque), Kieran Hollander, Kyle Remo (Next Row, l-r): Jack Stein, Justin Hornstein, Harrison Grange, William Fischer, Andrew Walsh (Front Row, l-r): Ryan Lamberta(Goalie), Ryan Potechin, Benjamin Pupko, George Schneider (Asst Coach), Daniel Lynes(Goalie).




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## CENTENNIAL VILLAGE GROUP'S SIXTH ANNUAL VELOCITY 5K RACE

On Sunday, June 5, the Centennial Village Group will host its 6th annual Velocity 5K race. The chip-timed race starts at 9 a.m. and provides a flat tour of part of Cranford's South Side, starting at Lincoln School on Centennial Avenue in Cranford, and looping through Centennial Village and Mohawk Park.

After the race, there will be a post-race treat provided by lead sponsors a toute heure and 100 Steps, along with massages from Neos Zoe of Cranford, raffles, and an award ceremony. The top three male and female runners overall will receive a prize and medals, and awards will be given to the top three males and females in the following age groups: 14 & under, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, and 70 and older. For the first time this year, there will also be a prize for the best decorated Cranford spirited stroller.

Last year's race saw over 150 runners from Cranford and surrounding towns. Participants in the family-friendly race ranged from high school students, to parents with kids in strollers, and senior citizens. Residents along the route came out to support the runners, shouting and banging pans to cheer them on. With the Mayor's

Wellness Campaign to help keep Cranford residents active and healthy well under way, the Centennial Village Group expects an even larger turnout of runners and supporters for this year's race.

To pre-register for the 5K, visit [racenj.com/Centennial](http://racenj.com/Centennial). Pre-registration is open until May 22, 2016. It costs \$25 for adults, \$15 for youth aged 18 and under, and includes a tech t-shirt. Race-day registration will also be available, starting at 8 a.m. and costing \$30 for adults and \$20 for

children. Email [cvgvelocity@gmail.com](mailto:cvgvelocity@gmail.com) with any questions regarding the race.

The Centennial Village Group is made up of Cranford volunteers dedicated to the revitalization and beautification of the Centennial Avenue business district. In addition to the Velocity 5K Race, the Group holds an annual MusicFest to raise funds for their continual efforts to improve the community.

For more info about the Centennial Village, visit [facebook.com/CentennialVillageGroup](http://facebook.com/CentennialVillageGroup).



(above) Runners at the starting line for Centennial Village Group's 2015 Velocity 5K Race.

Photo by Harlee Madsen

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# POLICE AND FIRE CELEBRATE NATIONAL WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

The Cranford Police and Fire Departments recently held interactive visits with the children of Calvary Nursery School in observance of the Week of the Young Child. This is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The purpose is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.



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| July 5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>       | Stars and Stripes Forever |
| July 11 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup>     | Imagination Station       |
| July 18 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup>     | Wet and Wild              |
| July 25 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup>     | Summer at the North Pole  |
| August 1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>     | Passport Around the World |
| August 8 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>    | Adventures in Space       |
| August 15 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>   | Super Splash              |
| August 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup>   | Funtastic Finale          |

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- Field Trips
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# DOWNTOWN CRANFORD CRUISER NIGHTS RETURN IN MAY

Take a stroll down memory lane by attending our Annual Cruiser Nights in downtown Cranford. This year our Cruiser Nights will take place on Wednesday nights. The dates for events are May 11, June 8, July 13 and August 10 and will begin at 5:00 p.m. and end at 9:00 p.m.

There is no charge to enter your car or cost for the public to attend.

There will be music provided by All Star Entertainment, hula-hoop contests for the children, an exhibition by Satori Academy of Martial Arts and a demonstration by Sharon Fit

Belly Dance Studio. Come downtown and enjoy the cars, music and dine at one of Cranford's wonderful restaurants.

Cruiser Nights in Cranford are a great time for all. We invite you to bring your classic cars for a night of relaxation and fun with your friends.

If you need any additional information, please contact the Cranford Chamber of Commerce at [cranfordchamber@comcast.net](mailto:cranfordchamber@comcast.net) or call 908 272 6114.

Hope to see you at our first show on May 11.

## CRANFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS

### CAR SHOW

Wednesday May 11th - 5:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Car Registration: 5:00 p.m.

Downtown - Alden St. & No. Union Avenue  
Classic Cars - Music - Contests - Awards

Info: [www.cranford.com/chamber](http://www.cranford.com/chamber)

### NETWORKING LUNCHEON

Wednesday - May 18th - Noon

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RSVP: [cranfordchamber@comcast.net](mailto:cranfordchamber@comcast.net)

## HERITAGE WALK SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2016

Meet at the Crane-Phillips House Museum,

124 North Union Avenue at 2:00pm

Tour begins promptly at 2:15pm

Enjoy a walk back in time as you learn about Cranford's past by visiting important landmarks and homes with Cranford Historical Society Trustee and Education Chairperson Christine Glazer. This walking tour was created for an Eagle Scout Project by Matthew Parlapiano with the help of the late Township Historian Lawrence Fuhro and sponsored by the Cranford Historical Society. Matthew's love of both Cranford and history inspired him to create this Cranford Heritage Walk.

There will be one tour. THE TOUR IS FREE. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.

Tour will be cancelled if it rains.

For further information, please call the Historical Society's office at 908-276-0082 or email us at [cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net](mailto:cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net). The Society has been dedicated to the perpetuation of Cranford's history by continuing to collect and document the town's past for the future. Visit our website at [cranfordhistoricalsociety.com](http://cranfordhistoricalsociety.com)



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# SUNNY ACRES CIVIC AND IMPROVEMENT ASSOC 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The Sunny Acres Civic and Improvement Association celebrated their 75th Anniversary on April 15, 2016, with a gala dinner event held at the Trattoria Bel Paese restaurant in Cranford. The theme for the evening was the 1940's with patriotic decorations: 1940's attire was optional. A display of the archives and achievements were there for all to see.

"Sunny Acres" housing development located off Raritan Road in the South East corner of Cranford near the Garden State Parkway consists of 172 homes built by Sears Roebuck, from 1941 through World War II under their "Home club Plan". After the homes were sold and completed the Association was established in 1941 to get the contractor and Sears to correct and fix construction issues, through a "strength in numbers" action plan.

Through its civic and improvement association, the neighborhood has been well served as an integral unit in serious as well as in social matters. As the oldest civic association in Cranford, a singular pride has held Sunny Acres Civic and Improvement Association together for 75 years.

Over the years the Township Committee and

the Chamber of Commerce has recognized the service and contributions of the Association with special "Proclamations" for their, 50th, 70th and 75th Anniversaries.

The Honorable Mayor Andis Kalnins of Cranford signed the new proclamation.

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of

Cranford wishes to congratulate the Sunny Acres Civic and Improvement Association on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary and commends the many residents and volunteers who, over the course of seventy-five years, have worked so faithfully and ardently to make the Sunny Acres Development an invaluable asset to our community".



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## THE DROWSY CHAPERONE IS COMING TO CDC THEATRE MAY 6-21

Rehearsals have begun at CDC Theatre in Cranford for the last show of the theatre's 97th season. The Drowsy Chaperone, winner of 5 Tony Awards (including Best Book and Best Original Score), and hailed by New York Magazine as, "The Perfect Broadway Musical", is a loving send-up of the Jazz age musical featuring one show-stopping song and dance number after another.

"It is a real thrill for my wife Mary and me to be directing "The Drowsy Chaperone" at CDC this season, following up on our successful production of "The Music Man" in 2013." said show director Ken Webb. "We have been lucky enough to assemble an extremely talented cast. It is a show that is fun for both the actors and the audience. It is a very unique production because it is basically a show within a show. It allows us to bring in some contemporary elements while at the same time transporting the audience back to the roaring 20's."

The show will run weekends from May 6 through May 21. Visit [www.cdctheatre.org](http://www.cdctheatre.org) for

tickets and further information. Funding has been made possible in part by the NJ State Council on the Arts, Dept. of State, a Partner Agency of the

National Endowment for the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs.



(above l-r) Some of the Cast of the Drowsy Chaperone: Colleen Renee, E. Dale Smith-Gallo, CJ Carter, Dana Simone, Gene Lough, Zach Mazouat.

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# CRANFORD LIBRARY

224 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016

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Be sure to visit the library and enjoy these events for people of all ages.

### Tales for Tots

each Monday at 10:00 a.m. through June 9 (except May 30) Theme-based stories, movement and songs for active listeners age 2 through 5 years old.

### Stories and More

each Thursday at 1:30 p.m. through June 9 Theme-based stories, movement, songs and a craft for active listeners age 3 through 5 years old. Younger children may NOT attend this program. Craft and open playtime will follow.

### Mo Willems Family Storytime

Thursday, May 12 at 3:30 p.m.

Join us for a fun filled family storytime featuring the tales of the one and only Mo Willems! Listen to a story, participate in a fun activity and create a craft. For children ages 4 and up. Registration is required.

### LEGO® Club

Friday, May 13 at 3:15 p.m.

We provide the LEGO® blocks; you provide the creativity. This program is for children in grades K - 5. No registration.

### Book Club for Adults

Monday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Join us for the next meeting of our adult book club. We will be discussing "The Samurai's Garden" by Gail Tsukiyama. A 20-year-old Chinese painter named Stephen is sent to his family's summer home in a Japanese coastal village to recover from a bout with tuberculosis. Here he is cared for by Matsu, a reticent housekeeper and a master gardener. Over the course of a remarkable year, Stephen learns Matsu's secret and gains not only physical strength, but also profound spiritual insight. Please speak with a librarian for information on obtaining a copy of the book.

### Creative Times

Friday, May 27 at 10:30 a.m.

Day off from school? Stop by the library and express your creative self. Art materials, LEGO® bricks and other material will be available for you to create what you like! Drop by anytime between 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. Program will conclude at noon.

No registration is required.

### History of the Jersey Shore

Monday, June 6 at 7:00 pm.

Have you ever wondered why there is an elephant-shaped building on the beach in Margate? A concrete ship stuck in the sand off Cape May Point? A town named Loveladies? Join author and photographer Kevin Woyce for a colorful tour of our coastal history, from the long-ago days of pirates, shipwrecks, and lighthouses to the founding of today's most popular summer resorts. A question and answer period will follow the presentation. Registration is required for programs listed above, unless noted otherwise.

Additionally, free movies are shown at the library on Monday and Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. Newly released DVDs are featured each Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. No registration is required for movies.

## GO FISH!



(above) Tatum Jensen, age 4, of Cranford, visiting the fish at SCLSNJ's Watchung Library branch, located at 12 Stirling Road in Watchung, on April 12. Tatum's grandparents live in Watchung and decided to pay the Library a visit with their adorable grandson.

# THE CAT FUND

The Cranford Athletic Turf Fund (CAT Fund) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization formed to bring artificial turf to Cranford's Memorial Field



## Buy-A-Brick for the CATWALK

The CATWALK is the newly-redesigned main entrance to Memorial Field.

The CAT Fund is one of the Primary Sponsors for the new Bathroom/Snackstand Facility being built now.

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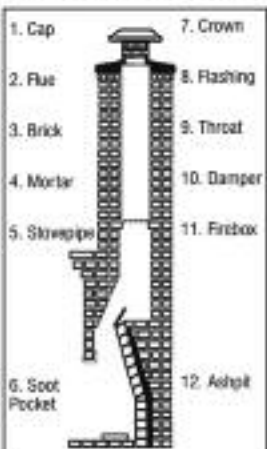
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## THE CRANFORD PBA ANNUAL SILVER CARD AND AWARDS DINNER

On April 5, 2016, the Cranford Policemen's Benevolent Association Local #52, held their annual Silver Card and Awards Dinner. The honorary Silver Card recipients were Kathleen Ditzel (retired Cranford Police Communications Officer), Ralph Gregson (Parking Enforcement Officer and voluntary Cranford Police Auxiliary Captain), Kevin Brennan (Owner of Rockin' Joe), and Attilio Guarino (Owner of Emma's Brick Oven). Honorary silver card recipients are members of the public who have gone above and beyond in their efforts and support of Cranford PBA Local 52 over the years.

PBA Local 52 members Steven Toy, Joseph VanBergen, and Derek Farbanec were honored with Silver Life Memberships. Merit Awards were presented to Cranford Police Officers who exhibited outstanding acts of courage and valor described in the following scenarios.

On August 30, 2014 Edward Davenport, Russell Luedecker, William Pietrucha, and Timothy O'Brien responded to an active fire at a local apartment and managed to evacuate all of the residents, one of which was overcome by smoke inhalation, and contained the fire from spreading to additional apartments.

On January 22, 2015 Nadia Jones, Michael Dubitsky, and Gregory Federici were dispatched to an unresponsive female. Officers performed CPR and administering multiple defibrillator shocks, a pulse was restored.

On September 10, 2015 Edward Davenport,

Frank Williams, William Pietrucha, Joseph Stulpin, Michael Andrews, Daniel Norton, and Jason D'Agostino responded to a call of a vehicle that drove into the Rahway River. Officers entered the rain swollen river and were able to rescue one occupant who later made a full recovery. As the overturned vehicle continued to sink into the river bed a second occupant was recovered from the vehicle that later succumbed

to her injuries.

"We are very proud of all the men and women of the Cranford Police Department and their tireless efforts to keep our community safe," said Cranford State Delegate Steven D'Ambola. "It is through the Officers' and our Honorary Silver Card Recipients' commitment and dedication to the township that make Cranford such a great place to live and work."



(above l-r) Joseph Stulpin, President Tom Bell, Vice President Kelly Rieder, Steven Toy, Ralph Gregson, State Delegate Steven D'Ambola, Derek Farbanec, Joseph VanBergen, Attilio Guarino.



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# CRANFORD MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE PARTNERS WITH CRANFORD COMMUNITY CONNECTION TO BRING FAMILY FUN DAY TO COMMUNITY

Cranford's annual cookout will be held on Sunday, May 22nd, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Families are invited to join in the fun as Cranford's police, fire, and municipal employees grill for the town! The town-wide family dinner event will include free food, fire station tours, live music, crafts, face painting, a dunk tank, and much more entertainment for the whole family!

The Cranford Municipal Alliance introduced the town-wide cookout last Spring to help promote its biggest initiative, family dinner night, and the event attracted over 1,000 attendees. This

year, the Alliance has partnered with Cranford Community Connection (CCC) - a local group that organizes events and activities to promote community spirit and involvement - to bring Cranford a memorable day and evening. The CCC is spearheading other daytime activities prior to the cookout, including the Annual Centennial Village 5k and Pedal! Paddle! Explore! - a 10 mile, police escorted, family friendly bike ride through Cranford.

"The Cranford Municipal Alliance has been working very hard to encourage Cranford

families to embrace family dinner night," said William Ilaria, Chairman of the Alliance. "It's been proven that family dinners are the best prevention strategy for families trying to keep their children alcohol and substance free and we're hosting one of the largest community cookouts in the area to remind everyone of the importance of having a routine family dinner."

For more information on the various events throughout the day, please visit [facebook.com/cranfordmunicipalalliance](https://facebook.com/cranfordmunicipalalliance) or [facebook.com/cranfordcommunityconnection](https://facebook.com/cranfordcommunityconnection).





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## GOLF FOR WOMEN AT THE CRANFORD REC

The Cranford Recreation & Parks Department is pleased to announce Golf for Women, with PGA Professional, Bill McCluney. This class teaches proper grip, tee-shots, short swing, long swing, bunker play, putting and more! Clubs will be provided if needed.

The class details are as follows:

**Mondays, April 25- June 13**

**Time: 11am – 12pm**

**Ages: 18 & up**

**Where: Scotch Hills Country Club,  
Scotch Plains, NJ**

**Cost: \$150.00**

**Register at the Cranford CommunityCenter,  
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**register.communitypass.net/cranford.**

**Classes are for Cranford residents only.**

**For additional information,  
call (908) 709-7283.**

## PEDAL, PADDLE & EXPLORE AT HANSON PARK

On Sunday, May 22 from 1-4 p.m., come spend the afternoon at Hanson Park as part of Pedal, Paddle & Explore Weekend in Cranford. Located at 38 Springfield Ave., Hanson Park is the perfect location to enjoy some good, old-fashioned, family fun! There will be free face painters and balloon twisters from Party Magic. They make some of the most inventive balloon creations out there: lasers with jet packs, monkeys on palm trees, rainbows and princesses, just to name a few! There will also be nature crafts for the kids including ice cream cone

planters and painted stones. Then from 2-4 p.m. enjoy the sweet sounds of Ocean Country, a bluegrass/country band. So bring your lawn chairs and blankets and get ready for an afternoon of nature, good tunes and fun!

This event is sponsored by the Hanson Park Conservancy and brought to you by a grant from Merck. For more information on this or other upcoming events please go to the Hanson Park Conservancy's website, [www.hansonparkconservancy.com](http://www.hansonparkconservancy.com) or like us on Facebook.

## NEW BASEBALL PROGRAMS ARE INTRODUCED

Cranford Recreation & Parks Department, in cooperation with Strength and Fitness Club Turf of Cranford, is pleased to announce the NEW Baseball Programs - Introduction to Tee Ball & Rookie Class, and NEW Athletes Performance Training programs for Spring & Summer.

The classes are as follows:

Introduction to Tee Ball (ages 4-6), which is designed to introduce children to baseball & how to have fun, Rookie Class (ages 7-8), which is designed to learn baseball fundamentals & how

to have fun, and Athletes Performance Training (ages 10-13 OR High school & up), which is sports-specific training to improve strength & flexibility, speed & agility, balance & coordination, as well as build confidence & enhance explosive movements.

Register for MAY & JUNE classes now at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.. Classes are for Cranford residents only. For additional information, please call the Cranford Community Center at (908) 709-7283.



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## CRANFORD POLICE YOUTH ACADEMY

The Cranford Police Department is proud to announce they will be hosting the Tenth Annual Cranford Police Youth Academy. The Academy will begin Monday, June 27th and conclude Friday, July 1st. Classes are run daily from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This law enforcement educational experience is for students graduating grades 6th - 8th grade. The primary goal of the Cranford Police Youth Academy is to encourage open communication between the youth of Cranford and members of the Cranford Police Department.

The program gives Cranford youth the opportunity to see some of the aspects of the Cranford Police Department. Applications for the Youth Academy can be found on the department website, [www.cranford.com/police](http://www.cranford.com/police).

The deadline for applications is Friday, May 20th at 3:00 p.m. There is a \$60 registration fee. Please contact Detective Steven D'Ambola with any questions (908) 709-7336 or Captain Joseph Van Bergen at [j-vanbergen@cranfordnj.org](mailto:j-vanbergen@cranfordnj.org).



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## FREE TREE AND SHRUB PRUNING WORKSHOP

On Sunday, May 15, the Hanson Park Conservancy is offering a free Tree and Shrub Pruning Workshop. Please join us at 10:00 AM at Hanson Park, 38 Springfield Ave. in Cranford, to learn what to prune, when to prune and which tools to use. There will be a tutorial on how to use one's garden tools properly, with an emphasis on safety and maintenance. Participants will also watch a demonstration on proper pruning methods and techniques on the different plants and trees at Hanson Park. The workshop will conclude with a Q&A.

This program is sponsored by the Hanson Park Conservancy and brought to you by a grant from Merck. Please register for this free event on the Hanson Park Conservancy's website, [www.hansonparkconservancy.com](http://www.hansonparkconservancy.com) or on our Facebook page.

## SHINING STARS PERFORMANCE A HIT

"What an outstanding show!" "The children did a wonderful job. I loved the show." "The Stars really did Shine!" These comments and more were heard at the end of the Shining Stars performance on April 15th. The show was a complete sell-out and the crowds on their way out the doors had nothing but praise for the group. Their faces reflected the excitement of the special needs student participants after an evening of Disney tunes. You would have thought they all visited the amusement park rather than enjoyed a stage presentation. The presentation raised more than \$5000 which will be donated in part to the Union Count ARC program and to Special Needs Scholarship funds. Everyone is already looking forward to next year's show.

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF TYLER COLLINS

I can't believe it's been a year since you slipped away from our lives. It seems like only yesterday, yet it feels like an eternity since we have seen your beautiful face. Over the past year I continued to convince myself that you were coming home, I guess that's what got me through! Unfortunately, the reality is setting in and I know we have to accept the horrible truth. I continue to kiss your pillow every night, reaching for your scent that you left behind, it too is beginning to fade. I tell you good night, I love you and I'll see you tomorrow. I can still hear you calling me in the middle of the night. I want so badly to open my eyes and see you there. Every day there are constant reminders of the significant part of our lives that is missing. I know you are with us, but I would give my last breath just to see you one more time. There are so many milestones that are approaching in your life that still exist with us, I pray that you will take part in them from heaven. Ty, it's amazing the love and dedication that still exists here in your memory, you would be so honored. Continue to watch over us and be our angel, as you always were. We love you and miss you so much, "Til We See You Again"

Love Always

Dad, Mom, Brandon & Danielle

## GRIEF IS A JOURNEY AND A PROCESS, NOT SOMETHING "WE GET OVER"

Patti Williams, R.N., and certified pastoral bereavement counselor, and Virginia Waters, PhD. Psychologist, will lead the sessions from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Thompson Youth Center of The First Presbyterian Church located at 11 Springfield Ave., Cranford. Patti and Virginia have offered this seminar for 17 years now, and have helped over 2500 people experience healing, find a new purpose for their lives, and feel joy once again. This is an experience like no other.

The sessions includes learning about the stages of grief, understanding the tasks of the grieving process, coping strategies, how to take care of yourself, and why this is so important. As well as the challenges that occur creating cherished memories or coping with holidays, anniversaries,

and dealing with feelings of loneliness. A special candle light ceremony is held to remember those we have lost, which includes walking the labyrinth and a time of fellowship.

Both of the leaders and all of the facilitators have experienced loss within their lives and share from "the inside out". It does not matter if your loss is divorce, death or job; a loss must be grieved. Bring family members and friends. All faiths are welcome. To register for this life changing event, please call 908-709-1341. No fee is charged.

The seminar is dedicated to Patti's late husband, the Rev. Dr. Bruce D. Williams who had a vision for the seminar 17 years ago, of helping others deal with their pain and suffering during their time of loss.

## "HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR AT CRANE-PHILLIPS

The Cranford Historical Society presents "A House and Garden Tour "

at the Crane-Phillips House Museum, 124 North Union Avenue, Cranford

Sunday, May 15, 2016 from 2:00 to 4:00pm.

The Crane-Phillips House Museum is the primary programming site of the Cranford Historical Society. Known as "Cranford's Historic Gem," this quaint Victorian cottage stands next to the Rahway River near the 18th century river crossing, "Crane's Ford." An outstanding example of Andrew Jackson Downing architecture, it is dressed in its original 1870s Victorian colors. The museum offers a rare glimpse of the life of a modest family in the Victorian era of opulence. An inviting parlor

offers a look at times long past. Permanent and changing exhibits, featuring items from the Society's costume, tool and local history collections are displayed.

Spring is upon us. Visitors will get a tour of the museum's Victorian flower, herb and vegetable gardens as well as our barn and outhouse. If you have a plant from your garden and would like to plant it at the museum, please bring it with you.

Reservations are required, so please call 908-276-0082 or email us at [cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net](mailto:cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net).

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Cranford Historical Society

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

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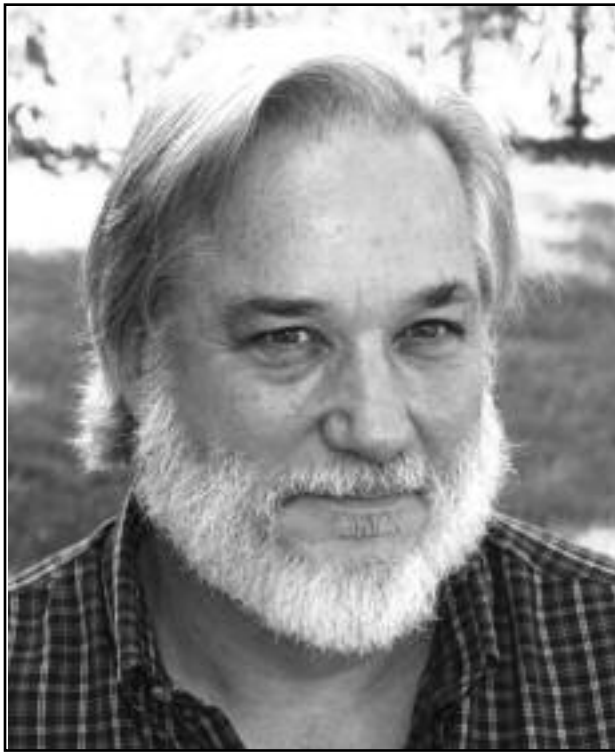
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# ARBOR DAY CELEBRATES TREES, POETRY AND POET JOHN McDERMOTT OF CRANFORD

The Fanwood Shade Tree Commission's annual Arbor Day observance held on Friday, April 29th, 2016, honored veteran member Earl Phillips, 94, who recently retired after more than 30 years as a member. Phillips, a retired police officer and Fanwood volunteer, received a certificate of appreciation, a commemorative book, and a hand made rain stick, presented by the students of the Park Middle School Environmental Club.

Also honored was poet John McDermott of Cranford, winner of this year's nationwide Arbor Day Poetry Contest. Mr. McDermott was presented with a \$300 prize by Adele Kenney, Fanwood's poet laureate and Shade Tree Commission member. The students of the Environmental Club presented information on the Emerald Ash Borer, a pest found in New Jersey ash trees. And for the 23rd consecutive year, Fanwood has been awarded Tree City USA status, which denotes that our town takes special care of trees. Kudos to Shade Tree Commission Chairman Steve Falco for another wonderful program!



(above) poet John McDermott of Cranford winner of nationwide Arbor Day Poetry Contest

## CRANFORD LIBRARY WINS BEST PRACTICES IN EARLY LITERACY AWARD

The Cranford Public Library was recently selected to receive the 2016 Best Practices in Early Literacy Award for its Family M.E.S.S. (Math, Engineering and Science Saturday) program, which was initiated and administered by Children's Librarian Lauren Antolino. The Family M.E.S.S. program enables families to undertake hands-on experiments, solve problems, learn, and have fun, all at the same time. The Best Practices Award, given by the New Jersey State Library, honors four outstanding public libraries

that currently provide exemplary literacy programs for children from birth to six years, their families, and caregivers. The award provides a \$1,000 honorarium, a certificate, and promotion of the winning library as a model program for other libraries. The winning libraries will be honored on May 18 at the Annual New Jersey Library Association Conference in May. For more information about children's programs at the library, go to [cranford.com/library](http://cranford.com/library) and click on Children's Room.

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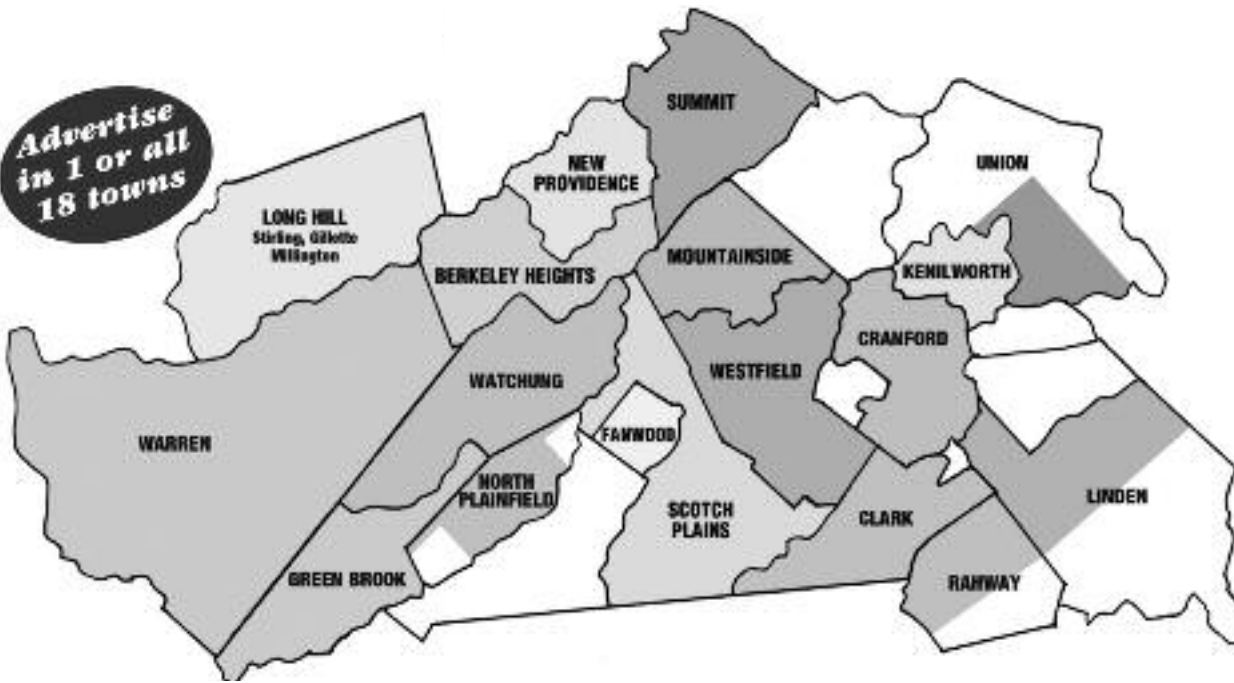
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# CRANFORD RESIDENTS BECOME CASA VOLS

Union County Superior Court Judge Daniel R. Lindemann on April 4, 2016 administered oaths to 16 community members who stepped up to serve as extra eyes and ears for Family Court judges on cases involving abused, neglected or abandoned children currently in foster care. Among them are Cranford's own Emily Aschenbach and Ildi Grundmann Coon.

The new Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers completed 30 hours of training over six weeks and will next observe court to see other CASA volunteers in action. After performing the oath, Judge Lindemann stepped off the bench and personally thanked each advocate for committing to serve children in need of a voice.

Volunteers with varied backgrounds and life experiences make successful advocates, and this class is no different. They range from age 23 to 81, some are parents, some empty-nesters, and others have no children. Some have lived out of the country or elsewhere in the United States, and careers include business, real estate, education

and stay-at-home parents. Most have no prior knowledge of the foster system.

CASA volunteers have court-ordered access to all parties in a child's life, including foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, and incorporate into court reports findings from these contacts as well as observations from time spent with the youth. Volunteers advocate both in the community and in court to ensure that while the youth is awaiting a safe and permanent home, their needs are met, their best interests are priority and their time in care is as short as possible.

There are currently 600 Union County children in foster care; the nonprofit serves approximately one-quarter of those youth and its mission is to provide a volunteer advocate for every child in care. CASA of Union County trains three times a year. For details on the next opportunity or for other ways to help the organization stand up for foster children, contact Lisa at (908) 527-7048 or lporis@casaofunioncounty.org.

# 5K RUN/1M WALK 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 judicial appointment means advocates are authorized to speak with the youth's attorney, teachers, doctors, therapist, foster parents, caseworker and more, and then report findings to the judge.

The race course is uSATF-certified and awards are given to the first-place male and female finisher, as well as runners in age brackets. The morning includes raffle prizes for the winning — tickets are \$5 — and such postrace 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.

Register at [www.fosterthedream.org](http://www.fosterthedream.org), taking the first steps toward changing the life of an abused, neglected or abandoned child. Contact Jen Mutch, race chair and CASA board member, at (917) 453-5415 or jcdowntown@hotmail.com.



(above, standing, l-r) The newest CASA of Union County volunteers are Emily Aschenbach of Cranford, Tom Whelan and Wigeby Toussaint of Union, Rose Franco and Craig Grosswald of Summit, Deborah Mathis of Rahway, Cheryl Barr of Summit, Doug Loffredo of Westfield, Lillie Chadwick of Union, and Julaine Bianculli of Rahway; (kneeling, l-r) Rupa Motwani of Westfield, Isabella Blumberg of Springfield, Phyllis Karp and Mary Ann Foster of Westfield and Ildi Grundmann Coon of Cranford. Not shown is Maryanne Grycan of Westfield.

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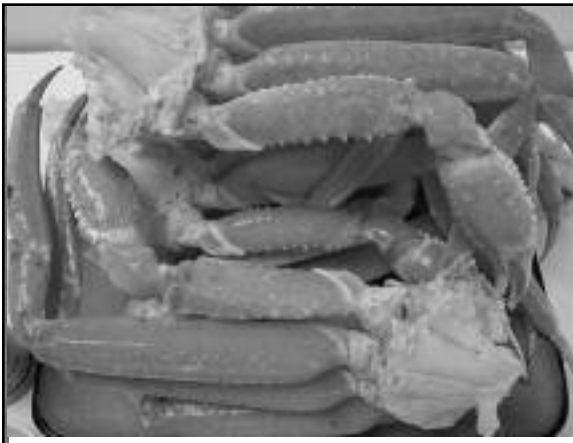
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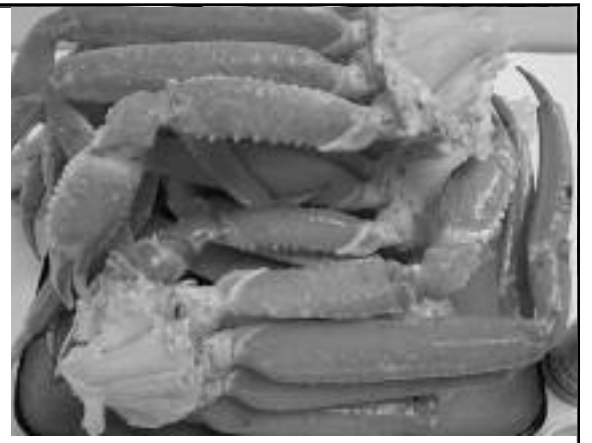
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PLEASE CALL

PH: 908-862-8866

FAX: 908-862-8867

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**

Sun. - Thur. 11am - 10pm

Fri. - Sat. 11am - 10:30pm



**LARGE PARTIES  
PLEASE CALL  
FOR RESERVATIONS**



**LUNCH BUFFET**

Mon - Fri 11AM - 3:30PM

Adult ..... **\$7.99**

KIDS  
3-6 y/o ..... **\$3.35**

7-10 y/o .... **\$4.95**

**DINNER BUFFET**

Mon - Thurs 3:30PM-10PM

Fri 3:30PM - 10:30PM

Adult ..... **\$11.99**

KIDS  
3-6 y/o ..... **\$4.95**

7-10 y/o .... **\$6.50**

**SATURDAY  
BUFFET**

ADULT LUNCH **\$8.99**  
11AM - 3:30PM

ADULT DINNER **\$12.99**  
3:30PM-10:30PM

**SUNDAY  
ALL DAY DINNER  
\$12.99**

**BUFFET TO GO**

**\$4.59/lb**

Regular Items

**\$5.59/lb**

w/Seafood

**\$6.59/lb**

All Seafood

**GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE!**

**DINE-IN • BUFFET TO GO • GIFT CERTIFICATES**

**\$1.00 OFF LUNCH  
BUFFET**

\* Must purchase a drink with meal. Dine in only.  
Coupon must be presented before payment.  
Limit 2 adults per coupon. Not valid with any other offer or holidays.  
Expires 6/7/16

**\$1.00 OFF LUNCH  
BUFFET**

\* Must purchase a drink with meal. Dine in only.  
Coupon must be presented before payment.  
Limit 2 adults per coupon. Not valid with any other offer or holidays.  
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