

# CRANFORD MONTHLY<sub>NJ</sub>

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## BRENNER AUTO ASSISTS IN RECYCLED RIDES FOR VETS

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE



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Benner's Auto Body owner, Joe O'Neill, was instrumental in getting cars donated to two military veterans. The Cranford business participated in Recycled Rides, a nationwide community service project of the National Auto Body Council. The organization coordinates the efforts of insurers, collision repairers, paint suppliers, and others to collaborate to repair and donate vehicles to worthy recipients in need. These were the second and third cars that Benner's assisted in.

In this project Geico Insurance Company donated two vehicles that were damaged in accidents and were then in their purview. The cars needed repair and O'Neill generously donated the time and expertise of his staff to repair the cars mechanically and cosmetically to mint condition.

When it came to finding the persons in need, O'Neill got together with Geico manager Eric Temkiewicz, and Supervisor Andrew Amaducci, and reached out to Michael Boll of the New Jersey Veterans Network, which is a group of volunteers dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live a better life. Their mission is to identify veterans and connect them with resources and programs designed to meet their unique set of needs. (Find them online at njvn.org).

The organization had two veterans who fit the bill. One was Manuel Archilla, a Marine and Desert Storm veteran. Archilla undergoes many medical treatments and a reliable vehicle would make it much easier for him to travel to his treatment facilities. He received a 2016 Hyundai Sonata.

The other recipient was Michael Cummings, also a Marine and a veteran of Afghanistan. While he was overseas, serving his country, his car in Jersey City, New Jersey, was stolen and impounded. The cost to get the now rotted car out of the impound lot was exorbitant. This donation is a great relief for transportation to and from work and medical treatment. He drove away in a 2017 Hyundai Santa Fe.

The cars were presented to the recipients on December 19, 2017, at Cranford Social Club



(above, front, l-r) Veterans Manuel Archilla and Michael Cummings, (back, l-r) Joe O'Neill, owner of Benner's Auto Body, Eric Temkiewicz, and Andrew Amaducci of Geico, and Michael Boll of the New Jersey Veterans Network are flanked by Archilla's 2016 Hyundai Sonata and Cummings' 2017 Hyundai Santa Fe.

located on North Avenue in Cranford. O'Neill reached out to Dottie Baniewicz of the Cranford Chamber of Commerce who coordinated with the Police Department to have the two vehicles on display outside the restaurant. She also secured media coverage. Photos of the presentation ceremony can be found on RennaMedia.com and the Cranford Monthly Facebook page. A video of the event can be found on Cranford's cable channel TV35 website cranfordtv35.viebit.com.

The presentation was part of a luncheon attended by the staff of Benner's and suppliers. In addition to donating the cars, \$3000 was raised and donated to the Fisher House Foundation, which builds comfort homes where military and veteran's families can stay free of charge, while a loved one is in the hospital. The money was raised by selling Emergency Road kits that were donated by AAA.

Benner's Auto Body was founded in 1910. O'Neill, who has owned the business since 2010 has a goal to reach out to a variety of different charities and give back to the world outside of the body shop. He partnered with numerous foundations in order to help the community. Information about Benner's history, services, and charitable initiatives can be found online at bennersautobody.com

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## CRANFORD KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DONATES \$5,000 TO MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE

On Tuesday, January 17th, 2018 the Cranford Knights of Columbus donated \$5,000 to the Cranford Municipal Alliance from the proceeds of the Council's 2017 Annual Golf Outing.

This donation will sponsor an initiative with the Cranford Police Department and Sgt. Matt Nazarro to educate Cranford youth about the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse and how to prevent it in the Cranford community.

The Cranford Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal organization dedicated to four core principles, Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. We support many charities and civic causes locally, state-wide, and nationally. We are committed to be a viable part of our community.

For information about joining the Council, please contact Membership Chair John Caprio at 732-306-5634 or visit [www.cranfordknights.org](http://www.cranfordknights.org).



(above, l-r) Grand Knight Wally Shackell presenting a ceremonial check to Cranford Municipal Alliance Board Members Susan Wilson, Maryanne Mason, Amber Witt, and Brad Young.

## 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!

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## COLLEGE WOMEN'S CLUB OF CRANFORD FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS

"Go Van Gogh!" will be the topic of Dr. Michael Norris at the February 12, 2018 meeting of the College Women's Club of Cranford.

Dr. Norris has a BA in classics from the University of California at San Diego and an MA in classics and a PhD in art history from the University of California at Santa Barbara. He has spent 20 years at the Cloisters Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and has lectured in classical and medieval art, the areas of his expertise, on trips all over the world. He is the founder of Armchair Art Tours.

Vincent Van Gogh, pastor, and painter, has produced more than 2000 works of art in his last decade. As he had no children, he viewed his paintings as his progeny. Dr. Norris will explore some of these "Brilliant Children," especially those at the Metropolitan Museum of Art with us at this meeting.

The evening will begin at the First Presbyterian Church, 11 Springfield Avenue in

Cranford, at 7 p.m. with refreshments followed by the meeting and Dr. Norris' program. The meeting is open to the public and all are invited to attend.

The College Women's Club of Cranford invites you to attend its first annual Scholar Tea on Sunday, March 11, 2018. It will be held at Bates Hall in the First Presbyterian Church on Springfield Avenue in Cranford from 1 to 3 p.m. An assortment of tea sandwiches and gourmet tea will be provided along with a guest speaker who will talk about the history of tea.

The Cake Artist Cafe will be catering the sandwiches and desserts for the tea. All proceeds from the Tea will be used for the Club's scholarship fund which provides scholarships for Cranford seniors who are pursuing a degree at a college or university.

Tickets are \$30 per person. For ordering information please email us at [CranfordCollegeClub@gmail.com](mailto:CranfordCollegeClub@gmail.com).

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# CRANFORD NEIGHBORS MAKE 754 SANDWICHES FOR ST. JOSEPH'S

A small initiative grew into a massive charitable event.

Neighbors, friends, and family gathered at Rich and Amy Wischusen's family home in Cranford, New Jersey, one cold Friday night in January 2018, and made 754 sandwiches for charity.

Amy drew inspiration from the company she works for, LLI Advisory Group in Cranford. Each month the company performs a community minded activity. The staff volunteers their time to a variety of activities for various charitable organizations. Their latest effort was making sandwiches for St. Joseph's Social Service Center in Elizabeth which operates a food bank and soup kitchen.

Amy thought it would be a good idea to call a few friends and offer the opportunity to make donations of their own. The response was overwhelming. Over two dozen neighbors, friends, and family showed up to help assemble sandwiches. Rich and Amy purchased a carload of bread and vats of peanut butter and jelly. Volunteers of all ages took a work station to spread peanut butter or jelly, bag sandwiches and keep the work stations supplied. Ham and cheese, and tuna sandwiches were also made; bringing the total number of sandwiches to 754. The sandwiches were then delivered to St. Joseph's in Elizabeth.

Cranford families that joined the Wischusens were: The Andelfingers, Chapmans, Dreyer/Costellos, Iossos, Jones, McCues, Padavanos, Pisanos, and Rennas.

LLI Advisory Group has a section on their website, llicpa.com, called, "LLI Gives Back," where they document the charitable organizations they have collaborated with. So far, these organizations include: Holiday Cards for Active Service Members, CASA of Union County, and St. Joseph's Social Service Center.

## ABOUT ST. JOSEPH'S SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER

Since 1983, St. Joseph's has served the materially poor and homeless community of greater Elizabeth, New Jersey, by providing basic human needs such as food, clothing, and medications, as well as a wide range of services and programs to help them acquire the material goods and social services they need to live with integrity. St. Joseph's welcomes Donations.

The sandwich program is one of the many ways that people can help St. Joseph's. They gratefully accept either bagged lunches or just sandwiches. Donations are always welcome and no appointment is necessary. If donations need to be picked up, donors can make a request by email at info@sjeliz.org.

## GUIDE TO DONATING SANDWICHES

If you would like to make sandwiches in bulk use the following guidelines:

Meat and Cheese: 1 lb. of meat and 1lb. of cheese will generally make a loaf of bread's worth of sandwiches. Please do not put condiments on the sandwiches.

Please individually wrap each sandwich and then place the sandwich bags in the bag the bread was in. This allows us to easily store the sandwiches and freeze them if necessary.

Sandwiches are particularly needed later in the week. Bagged lunches should include a sandwich, fruit, and drink.

Please be sure to sign the donation book when you drop them off!

## TO DONATE FOOD

St. Joseph's is always in need of the following items: soups, canned vegetables, beans, fruit, peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish, boxes of pasta, pasta sauce, rice, cereal, shelf stable milk, and all varieties of baby food and cereal.

They also need full size shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, deodorant, disposable razors (men's and women's), and disposable diapers, especially sizes 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Donations are accepted during the following hours: Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

## TO DONATE CLOTHING AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

St. Joseph's also accepts donations of new and gently used clothing and small household items. We respectfully request that any donated items be in working or wearable condition.



(above) Over two dozen Cranford neighbors gathered to make 754 sandwiches for St. Joseph's Social Service Center.

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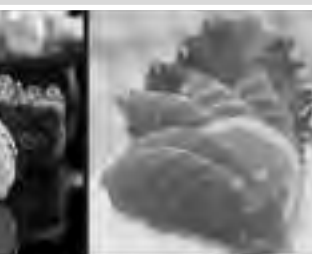
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## 'CRIMES OF THE HEART' OPENING IN FEBRUARY AT CDC THEATRE

Beth Henley's 'Crimes of The Heart' will be the first production of 2018 at CDC Theatre in Cranford. Warm-hearted, irreverent, zany, and brilliantly imaginative, this black comedy examines the plight of three young Mississippi sisters betrayed by their passions.

In the CDC Theatre production Maeve Brady, Rebecca Dolan, and Katherine Brown are the three MaGrath sisters and each offered some insights into the production. "I'm so thankful to have found a wonderful theatre community such as CDC Theatre," said Katherine Brown who is preparing to appear as Babe, the youngest sister who is facing trial for having shot her husband. "'Crimes of The Heart' appealed to me because the cast is so small and the audience can really get to know the characters. Each sister is in a

different part of her life, and faces different challenges, but they all come together as a family to confront them. As the youngest sister, I feel Babe looks to her older sisters for support and for validation of her choices. She has had some hard times but strives to stand up and survive. She is stronger than she seems. I hope to bring some humor and humanity into this challenging role. I am excited to open the show and share Babe's story."

Rebecca Dolan steps into the role of Meg, the self-centered middle sister who ran away to Hollywood. "CDC was where I began to love theatre," Rebecca shared recently. "My first show here was The 'Miracle Worker' when I was 11. I was an acting major at Marymount and have worked at Paper Mill, George Street Playhouse,

& Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey. After earning Masters in Drama Therapy at NYU, I worked as a clinician in inpatient psychiatry. I currently work with a non-profit in the city called Enact, where we use theatre and drama therapy in NYC classrooms to provide trauma-informed social-emotional learning. I auditioned for this play because I was drawn to the concept of how these sisters have lived through trauma and difficult times, but are coming back together and figuring out how to survive and move forward. Meg's story of returning home after a long time away and facing what she left there resonates with me personally and I know it will with our audience. It's lovely to be in a space where people devote their time to theatre simply because they love it."

Maeve Brady "returns" to CDC Theatre in the role of Lenny, the oldest sister who has sacrificed her life to care for the grandfather who raised them. "I was in third grade the last time I performed on the CDC stage and I am so glad to be back! Between now and then I got a degree from Princeton where I had some of the best theatrical experiences of my life. These included helping to run a Summer Stock company where I first worked on 'Crimes of the Heart', also as Lenny. I am so excited to be able to do this play again. Character driven dramas are my favorite and these characters are definitely dealing with their fair share of drama. What really makes this play special is how the sisters are able to find moments of joy as they come together again. As an actor, navigating the changing relationships in the midst of all of the history these sisters have with each other is the best type of challenge."

Rounding out the rest of the cast are Danielle Mastropiero as Chick, Joe Leo as Doc, and Zach Mazout as Barnette. The production will run from February 16 through the 24th and details and tickets can be found by visiting [cdctheatre.org](http://cdctheatre.org). CDC Theatre, New Jersey's oldest continuously producing community theatre is located at 78 Winans Avenue in Cranford.



(above) The cast of Crimes of the Heart (l-r) Danielle Mastropiero, Joe Leo, Rebecca Dolan, Maeve Brady, Katherine Brown, Zach Mazout.

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## MEET ENSIGN HOWARD GOODMAN, ENGINEERING OFFICER, ONE OF CRANFORD'S 86 HOMETOWN HEROES.

By Don Sweeney with Lt. Col. Steven Glazer (Ret.), Cranford Historical Society

On Memorial Day 2016 the idea of telling the stories and introducing the faces of our Cranford Hometown Heroes came to me. One of the first stories was told to me by my neighbor Mary Roberts and her family. Mary's uncle, James "Jimmy" Roberts, was a casualty of World War II while serving on the heavy cruiser USS Canberra (CA-70) in the waters off Formosa, now known as Taiwan. The story we previously shared here told of a brotherhood of three Cranford High School graduates, Jimmy, Joe Griffin, and Bob Greco, who left for war before their formal graduation ceremony, later serving together at sea. What I didn't know until later was that Jimmy Roberts wasn't the only Cranford Hometown Hero killed on that Friday the 13th in October 1944.

While working on story number five, about William Asa Hale, a graduate of Stevens Institute of Technology, we stumbled upon a full list of Stevens students who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. On that list was Ensign Howard Evans Goodman of Cranford, along with the date October 13, 1944. The "coincidence" caught our attention. Upon further research we found he too was on the Canberra. I immediately called Mary Roberts and asked if she had heard anything about another Cranford sailor on the ship with her uncle, who perished on that same day. She said she hadn't, but would ask her family. It seems that they did indeed know about Ensign Goodman, but it wasn't until well after the memorial services for their loved one that they read Goodman's story in the Cranford Chronicle. She simply said that they heard Goodman wasn't on the ship long and her Uncle Jimmy didn't really know him.

The article from the Cranford Chronicle was mentioned in a book by prominent Cranford historian Bob Fridlington and uncovered by Steve Glazer. The book and the article confirmed the fateful circumstances. Fridlington's book had a vintage photograph of Fireman 1st Class Bob Greco and a brief retelling of the story of the four young Cranford men and their time together on the Canberra. Greco and Griffin had been amazed to learn from their hometown newspaper that another local man, Ensign Howard Goodman, was a shipmate who also died in the attack. According to the article, Goodman had only been on the Canberra for several weeks before giving his life for his ship and her crew. Maybe it is just as well that we can now tell his story and introduce his face.

Howard Goodman, like many Cranford residents, was born in Bayonne. He moved to Cranford in 1922 at the age of 4. He and his family were members of Trinity Episcopal Church. While in Cranford High, he held a student government office each year and was elected president of his senior class. He was a member of the National Honor Society, Mathematics Club, Latin Club, Foreign Affairs Club, and served as Art Editor of the Golden C. His classmates voted him "the boy who had done



(above) Stevens Graduation Portrait



(above) Ensign Howard E. Goodman

the most for his class" and "the most industrious student." He graduated with the class of 1935 and then attended Colby College in Maine for one year before transferring to Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken. After graduating with honors from Stevens in 1940, he was employed by General Electric Co. as a turbine engineer in Lynn, Mass., a premium job placement for a graduating senior.

In April 1944, after four years with General Electric, Howard volunteered for service with the U.S. Navy, receiving his eight-week indoctrination course at Princeton University, where he was commissioned an ensign. He left for San Francisco on August 2, 1944, for a "special mission" in the Pacific Theater. In early October 1944 he was placed on the Canberra off the coast of China.

It would seem the special mission the newly minted ensign was being trained for was the attack on Formosa. The island's airfields were the source of continuous sorties on the Allied positions on land and sea. Elimination of the source could change the outcome of the war in the South Pacific. It was from Formosa that the first kamikaze attacks originated. And it was the location of the largest concentration of Japanese aircraft in the region. Admiral William "Bull" Halsey, commander of the U.S. Navy's 3rd Fleet, had moved his Task Force 38, the largest collection of naval battle hardware in the Pacific, to the waters off the coast of Formosa. Halsey -- a native of Elizabeth, NJ -- planned to destroy these airfields and the hundreds of attack aircraft based there. The enormity of the American naval might collected there was reported to be 17 aircraft carriers (nicknamed "Murderers' Row"),

four heavy cruisers and 11 light cruisers as anti-aircraft support vessels, 57 destroyers and 1,425 bomber/fighters. It was clear the Navy was serious about this special mission. The attacks on Formosa commenced on October 10 and continued through the 20th.

On the evening of Friday the thirteenth -- after three days of bombardment by the big guns of American destroyers and repeated air strikes -- a Japanese attack squadron of 30 planes flew below radar coverage setting out to defend their island. These bombers were Mitsubishi G4m and Yokosuka P1Y Frances, T-Buntai' torpedo bombers. More than 20 were downed by naval anti-aircraft fire. Ten bombers got past most of the perimeter defenses and were able to attack the aircraft carriers directly. These dual engine T-Buntai' planes were a secret weapon being held back by the Japanese to surprise the American Task Group at a strategic moment in the war. The torpedoes were controlled by a radio wave too low to be detected by the allied forces. Six remote controlled torpedoes were launched and aimed at the carriers. Luckily the violent seas caused five torpedoes to miss their marks, either going off course or going too deep underneath the carriers. One however missed the aircraft carrier Franklin and struck the Canberra just below the water line and its armor belt. A jagged hole 55' x 140' was blown into the engine room, killing 23 of the nearly 1750 men on board. Of those killed in action that day, Ensign Goodman was the only officer. Within one week General Electric engineers developed a blocking device which rendered future use of the T-Buntai ineffective. Nevertheless, the battle was one-sided, as the Americans had air superiority due to better

## HOWARD GOODMAN (continued)

equipment and training. With the Japanese air corps devastated, their ability to defend the Okinawa Islands in the upcoming campaign was compromised. Over 10 days of sustained warfare, the Japanese lost numerous ships and approximately 500 aircraft, almost their entire air strength in the area (with American losses amounting to 89 aircraft and two heavy cruisers). The Canberra and the USS Houston were damaged but not sunk. The battle of Formosa was a great victory at sea and instrumental in our strategic success at the later battle of Leyte Gulf off the Philippine Islands on October 23-26, 1944. It was said by many to be the largest and most fierce naval battle of WW2, some said of all time.

Steve Glazer remarkably was able to locate a surviving crew member of the Canberra crew and interview him on the phone. John Chenoweth, 93 years old, gave us a first-hand report about the battle and Ensign Goodman, who he remembered vividly. He described Goodman's grand entrance onto the Canberra just 10 days before the battle that took his life. He was brought on board from the USS Santa Fe in an open sea procedure called "highlining." While the two ships were moving in open seas, a cable car of sorts was created and Ensign Goodman was transported from one ship to another. It must have been something to see. Mr. Chenoweth told us that Ensign Goodman was an engineering officer working in the engine room that night. That is consistent with the story of James Roberts.

Howard Goodman was originally interred on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea, where the Canberra put in for repairs. However, like so many others lost in battle on distant seas and hostile shores during the war, the young man's remains were not returned home until years later.



(above) A formerly classified photo of the damage caused by the torpedo attack on The USS Canberra.



(above) The USS Canberra as it looked on Friday the 13th, 1944.

In 1948, he was buried in Fairview Cemetery, only a short walk from 39 Spruce Street, where he grew up in town. The Hometown Hero was awarded the Purple Heart and Asiatic medals for making the supreme sacrifice at age 27.

Every month as we collect the details to create a new Hometown Hero story, I find myself getting emotionally attached to the life of each of these young men. This month is no different. Reading the 1987 obituary of Goodman's 95-year-old mom, and the loving attachment mentioned there that was broken by the untimely death of her first-born child almost a half century earlier, had me thinking about how my wife and I might have been affected under similar circumstances. Our son, as was Howard Goodman, is an engineering student at Stevens Institute of Technology and will hopefully soon land that prestigious dream job and start a life and family of his own. If times were to change and war was again calling young men to service, we could be a family just like the Goodmans. It's feelings such as these that drive me to complete as many stories of the Cranford 86 as we can. Watch each month on our Facebook page at cranford86, or on renamedmedia.com in the Cranford86 file.

Ensign Howard E. Goodman was a great American and one of our Cranford 86 Hometown Heroes.



(above) Aerial T-Buntai' torpedoes that were dropped from aircraft during the battle of Formosa.



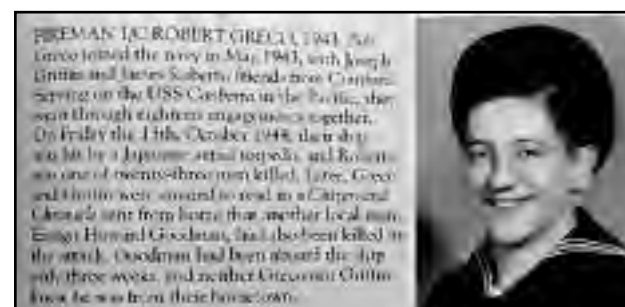
(above) The 3rd Fleet's Task 38 nicknamed "Murderers Row"



(above) A plaque that hung on the wall of the USS Canberra until its decommission in 1970.



(above) USS Canberra on christening and launching day April 19, 1943.



(above) Bob Greco was the veteran that read the names of the WW2 honor roll for years on Memorial Day. He said as he read the names he saw the faces. It was that thought that has inspired the Cranford 86 Hometown hero project. He was aboard the USS Canberra with Ens. Howard Goodman and James Roberts.



(above) Ensign Howard Evans Goodman's footstone at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.



## THIRD ANNUAL CFEE TEAM TRIVIA NIGHT

Approximately 400 teachers, parents, and community members will test their wits for a great cause at the 3rd Annual Cranford Fund for Educational Excellence (CFEE) Team Trivia Night on February 24, 2018 at the Kenilworth VFW, 33 South 21st Street. Approximately 40 teams of roughly 10 people apiece will compete to answer questions about sports, history, science, social studies, and other topics.

Funds raised by CFEE go directly toward innovative educational grants written by teachers or administrators that impact and advance teacher instruction and student learning in the Cranford Public Schools. Last year, CFEE awarded nearly \$23,000 in grants to fund innovative classroom projects in the Cranford public schools. The grants brought new resources to students at all levels—from kindergarten through high school—and across subjects, from science and literacy, to math and music.

To learn more about applying for a CFEE grant for your classroom before the March 15 deadline, or to help support the important work of CFEE, visit [www.cranfordfund.org](http://www.cranfordfund.org).



(above) #teamherning showed their community spirit at the 2017 Trivia Night, wearing "Straight Outta Cranford" tees.

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(above) The 2017 winning team, Cranford Newcomers 1, wears their "thinking caps".  
Cranford Newcomers 1 Team Captains: Abbie and Chris Signore. Members: Claire & Ryan Cooper; Jen & Chris Lenza; Beth & Shaun Rees; and Chris & Matt Delre.

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# OBLACHINSKI AND POLYVIOU TO BE HONORED BY UC BASEBALL ASSOC

MLB Umpire Phil Cuzzi to Speak at Hot Stove Dinner -Sunday February 11, 2018

The Union County Baseball Association is proud to announce that the special guest speaker for this year's Hot Stove League awards event will be Major League umpire and New Jersey native, Phil Cuzzi. The UCBA will induct four new members into the Union County Baseball Hall of Fame and honor local athletes at the organization's 82nd annual Hot Stove League awards dinner on Sunday, February 11, 2018 beginning at 1:00 p.m. at The Gran Centurions in Clark, New Jersey.

The special guest speaker will be Phil Cuzzi of Nutley, a Major League umpire for 22 seasons, who worked behind the plate in Game One of the 2017 World Series.

The four new Hall of Famers are Bill Feehan, a longtime firefighter for the City of Elizabeth, who played for Roselle Catholic High School and helped Kean College win two ECAC championships; Jack Goldberg, a First Team All-State slugger for the Union High School Farmers, who later played in the minors for the Atlanta Braves; Ernie Hoffer of Linden, a three-sport athlete who earned All-County and All-State honors in 1960 and 1961 as a third baseman; and Curt Wallace, who distinguished himself as a hitter at Edison Tech in Elizabeth and in inter-county leagues before going on to play, manage, instruct and scout in six countries.

Outstanding athletes from throughout Union County also will be honored at the afternoon awards ceremonies on February 11 for their accomplishments in high school, college, and

other leagues. Among the honorees will be teammates Shannon Brogan and Gianna Randazza of Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark, who will share the Banyasz Brothers Award for most valuable scholastic softball players; Brian Oblachinski of Cranford, who will receive the Edward R. Cooper Award for outstanding high school baseball player; Katarina Polyviou of Cranford, who will receive the Joseph R. Lombardi Award for outstanding female athlete; and Nate Roe of Plainfield, who will receive the Chris Zusi Award for outstanding male athlete.

Shannon Brogan finished her high school softball career at ALJ with a .425 batting average and 152 hits. At shortstop, she helped lead the Crusaders to the Union County championship in 2016 and a return trip to the tournament in 2017. She now plays for Moravian College.

Brian Oblachinski was a stellar shortstop and leadoff hitter for the Cranford High School Cougars last year. He posted a .396 batting average with 33 runs scored and only eight strikeouts. Brian stole 15 bases in 15 attempts. He now plays for Montclair State University.

Katarina Polyviou is a standout two-sport player at DeSales University. In May, she was named to the All-MAC Freedom Second Team in lacrosse. In the fall, she was named to the All-MAC Freedom First Team in field hockey and she was profiled in Sports Illustrated's "Faces in the Crowd" feature.

Gianna Randazza, three-time Union County



Player of the Year, graduated as ALJ's all-time leader in hits (192), runs batted in (179), runs scored (140), triples (17), and home runs (26); and as a pitcher, wins (59), strikeouts (532), and no hitters (5). Gianna now plays for Boston College.

Nathaniel Roe enjoyed his best season on the pitching mound as a 2017 Atlantic League All-Star with the New Britain Bees. A Rutgers grad, Nate finished the year with a 7-6 record, one save and 60 strikeouts in 79 innings, primarily in relief, after spending the offseason in the Australian Baseball League.

Tickets for the 82nd annual Hot Stove League awards dinner may be purchased online at [www.UCBA-NJ.org](http://www.UCBA-NJ.org). For more information call

## "Olmsted By Design!" Free Historic Presentation



**When: Tuesday, February 27th  
@ 7:00 PM**

**Where: Cranford Community Center  
220 Walnut Ave, Cranford**

For more information on this event please see the Hanson Park Conservancy's website  
[www.hansonparkconservancy.com](http://www.hansonparkconservancy.com)

"Olmsted By Design!" is a first-person, dramatized presentation featuring Kirk R. Brown costumed and acting as Frederick Law Olmsted, father of landscape architecture.

Olmsted treated dirties out of the American wilderness and began a conservation movement still challenging the world today.

Olmsted helped create Central Park and Prospect Park in NYC, but of special interest will be the many projects that Olmsted created in the Garden State.

This program is free and open to the public. No registration is required, but seating is available on a first-come, first-serve basis.



This history program is made possible in part by a  
**HEART (History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands) Grant**  
from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

**Presented by the Hanson Park Conservancy.**



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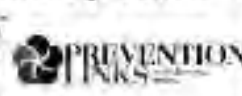
**February 13, 2018**

**6:30 PM**

**Cranford Community Center - 220 Walnut Ave, Cranford**



**Partnership  
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**With panelists from the following organizations:**  
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Partnership for Drug-Free Kids  
Prevention Links  
High Focus Centers

Information or Questions? D/Sgt. Matthew E. Hansen at 908-709-4313 or [mehansen@cranfordnj.org](mailto:mehansen@cranfordnj.org)

## UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE DEAN'S LIST

The following students from Cranford have been named to the University of Delaware Dean's List for the Fall 2017 semester: Leigh Abramson, Laura Brink, Taylor Schomp, Brian Stapleton, Marissa Dankosky, Brian Rubin, James Pipala, Brittany Hogan, David Fonseca, Julia Schork, Erin Readie, Ava Laverty, and Zachary Roy.

To meet eligibility requirements for the Dean's List, a student must be enrolled full-time and earn a GPA of 3.33 or above (on a 4.0 scale) for the semester.



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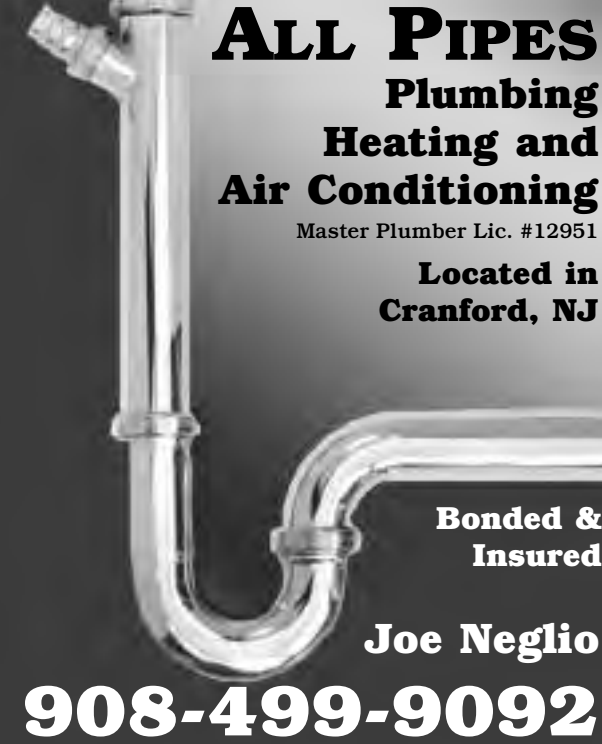


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## KEVIN MAHONEY RECIPIENT OF DR. KING AWARD

On Thursday, January 18, 2018 the Cranford Clergy Council and the Interfaith Human Relations Committee presented Cranford resident and St. Michaels Church member Kevin Mahoney with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Civil and Human Rights.

Mahoney was nominated by executive director Linda Flores-Tober of the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless, Bernadette Murphy of St. Joseph Social Service Center, and Geleen Donovan of Family Promise. Collectively, they define Mahoney as a person of incredible compassion, genuine love for all people, and concern for their welfare. He so selflessly volunteers with several organizations that the three organizations decided to submit this nomination together. "It is a testament to Kevin that the relationships he forms among the poor and homeless and those who help them builds

community just by his presence and caring," states Cindy Hannen of the Cranford Clergy Council.

In addition to countless hours of volunteer work for the Elizabeth Coalition, Family Promise, and St. Joseph's, Kevin is also a dedicated volunteer at Roselle Catholic High School. In his spare time, he is often found helping to renovate a lighthouse off of Staten Island with the Noble Maritime Collection.

**ABOUT THE CLERGY COUNCIL OF CRANFORD:** The Clergy Council of Cranford consists of members from all houses of worship in Cranford, and Osceola Church in Clark. The group has sponsored anti-bullying events, service days, and interfaith religious services. To learn more about Clergy Council of Cranford, contact Cindy Hannen at [cindy@patwin.com](mailto:cindy@patwin.com), or call her at 908-272-9133.

## FALL SPORTS CHAMPS

During the fall season our student athletes and coaches have captured numerous championships.

Gymnastics won the Union County Title for the second consecutive year as Bee Iosso was the All-Around County Champion and Kelly McAuliffe was the County Champion on the Balance Beam. The teams also won a Conference Title and set a school record for an overall meet point total.

Field Hockey team captured its first Divisional Title since 1989.

Boys Soccer team also won a Conference Divisional Championship as the JV Boys Soccer team won the Union County Title.

Senior Gordon Graceffo signed his National Letter of Intent on November 13th, 2017 to play baseball at Villanova University.

## 'OLMSTED BY DESIGN!' AT COMMUNITY CENTER

Please join the Hanson Park Conservancy on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 7 p.m. at the Cranford Community Center, for a first-person, dramatic presentation, "Olmsted By Design!" with Kirk R. Brown costumed and acting as Frederick Law Olmsted, father of landscape architecture. Olmsted created cities out of the American wilderness and began a conservation movement still challenging the world today. He believed parks improve our society by building a sense of community and a place for recreation. Olmsted helped create Central Park and Prospect

Park in NYC, but of special interest will be the many projects that Olmsted created in the Garden State. His landscape architecture helped shape a nation and Mr. Brown will bring us along for the ride!

The Cranford Community Center is located at 220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford. The program is free and open to the public.

No registration is required, but seating is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information please go to our website, [hansonparkconservancy.com](http://hansonparkconservancy.com).

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## FREE THEATER PROJECT AT CRANFORD COMMUNITY CENTER

The Theater Project will present a staged, script-in-hand reading of an original play from its Playwrights Workshop, including a discussion between the audience and the author, on Saturday, February 10, 2018, at 2 p.m. in the Cranford Community Center, located at 220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford.

Headquartered at the Burgdorff Center in Maplewood, The Theater Project is an acclaimed professional theater group and the winner of two

New Jersey Tony Awards.

The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. Admission is free and all are welcome. For information about the Cranford Public Library, the Friends of the Cranford Public Library, and other upcoming events, visit the Cranford Public Library page at [cranfordlibrary.org](http://cranfordlibrary.org). For information about The Theater Project, visit their page at [thetheaterproject.org](http://thetheaterproject.org).

## KIDZ KLUB SUMMER DAY CAMP

Members of Cranford Pool and Fitness Center may enroll children members in Kidz Klub, a weekly summer day camp, running from June 18 to August 24, 2018. The Klub emphasizes outdoor play, pool activities, arts & crafts, as well as a weekly bus trip. Enrollment is for children 5- to 12-years-old, with options for early (7 a.m.) drop-off and late (6:30 p.m.) pick up. The Kidz Klub runs for 10 weeks but you may enroll for 1-3 weeks, 4-6 weeks or 7-10 weeks.

Registration for summer pool memberships is

open to residents and non-residents, starts March 1, 2018 and must be completed before registering for the Kidz Klub. Registration packets are available either in the Fitness Center at 401 Centennial Avenue or on-line at [cranfordnj.org/pool-fitness-center/pages/forms](http://cranfordnj.org/pool-fitness-center/pages/forms), starting Feb. 12. Registration will begin March 1, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., and must be done in person, as space is limited. For additional hours or more information, please call Sally at 908-709-7260 ext. 2307.

## LADIES' NIGHT OUT - MARCH 15TH

Project Home of Cranford is happy to announce that our annual Ladies' Night Out will be held on Thursday March 15, 2018 at 6:00 pm at the Westwood, 438 North Ave, Garwood. The evening includes a sit-down dinner (including wine), a tricky tray auction with a large variety of items and an overall great evening of socializing. All the profits from this event will go to help Cranford Family Care, a local charity that assists Cranford families in need.

Ladies Night Out is a perfect opportunity to catch up with friends and to help a local organization whose mission is to help Cranford residents who are in danger of losing their homes due to crisis.

For over 25 years Project Home of Cranford, a 501(c)3 charity has been working through

Cranford Family Care to keep Cranford families in their homes. Ladies' Night Out is a very popular event that regularly attracts over 300 women, and can be the perfect opportunity for merchants to advertise their businesses.

Unfortunately funding to Family Care from other sources has been reduced making our fundraising efforts critical and we find ourselves in need of sponsors for the event.

If you would like to participate, enquire about the tickets for Ladies' Night Out or just find out more about Project Home and our mission please email us at:

[info@cranfordprojecthome.org](mailto:info@cranfordprojecthome.org),  
visit us at [cranfordprojecthome.org](http://cranfordprojecthome.org)  
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(above) Ladies Night Out 2017.

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**FEBRUARY 2018 EVENTS**

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**Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.**  
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## COPING WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Are you feeling stressed and alone in trying to cope with the effect of a loved one's mental illness?

The Union County affiliate of NAMI/National Alliance on Mental Illness offers monthly peer led group meetings to support those who care for a loved one who struggles with a mental health issue. Join the discussion and perhaps gain

insight from others facing similar challenges.

The NAMI Union County Family Support Group meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of every month, 7:30-9:00 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Ave., Cranford, NJ. In case of inclement weather please call 908-233-1628 or email [namiunioncounty@yahoo.com](mailto:namiunioncounty@yahoo.com).



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10:00 am to 2:00 pm  
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**Cranford Community Center**  
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Registration is \$12 • Note: this is a non-rated tournament.  
Non-scouts (under 18 only) can register by calling Joe Renna at 908-447-1295.  
Scouts can use Patriots' Path Council Munsee District Double Knot link to register on-line at [ppbsa.doubleknot.com/event/2300308](http://ppbsa.doubleknot.com/event/2300308)  
Scouts can email Will Adams at [Will.adams@scouting.org](mailto:Will.adams@scouting.org) for more info.

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This tournament meets the 6a requirement for earning a Chess merit badge.

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## CRANFORD FIREFIGHTERS TO COMPETE IN FOOD COMPETITION

On Monday, February 26, 2018, Cranford firefighters will join with firefighters from around New Jersey to compete at the Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival benefiting the New Jersey State Firefighter's Mutual Benevolent Association and the St. Barnabas Burn Center/Foundation.

The competition is part of the culinary extravaganza where attendees will be able to experience the tastes and flavors of more than 30 of New Jersey's finest restaurants, caterers and dessert shops all in one location. There will also be 30 tables offering all types of beverages for tasting. This event, which draws people from throughout the state, will be held at the Pines Manor located on Rt 27 in Edison, New Jersey, from 6 to 9 p.m.

The "Ultimate Firefighter Cookoff" will be an integral part of the evening.

The New Brunswick, Clifton, Bayonne, South Orange, Roselle, Morristown, Trenton, Nutley, and Hamilton Fire Departments are competing in

the Gourmet Cooking Category.

Cranford, Belleville, Maplewood, Montclair, Carteret, Union, Paterson, Westfield, Hillside, Long Branch and Plainfield Fire Departments will compete in the "Firehouse Cooking" category.

New this year will be the Rahway, Local 500 (retirees), Elizabeth, Linden, and Harrison Fire Departments competing in the dessert category.

Some of the judges will be, Shelli Sonstein - 104.3 radio, Tony Caputo - Channel 12, Bart Oates - NY Giants, Mike Murphy - NY Giants, David Diehl - NY Giants, Kara Decker - Head Chef 100 Steps Restaurant, Joe Mastrella - Executive Chef Luciano's restaurant, Mike Christensen - Pinnacle Foods, Darius Peacock - two-time Chopped Champion, GiGi and Nicole Gallodoro - GiGi Cupcakes, AJ Fusco - Chef and Firefighter Harrison NY, Christian Coughlin - District manager for Kona Grill, Mariso Esteves - Owner of Cake on Heels, Tom Coughlin - CEO of Bayonne Community Bank,

and Lou Healey, CFO of Allied Beverage. Others will be added.

If you are looking for an entertaining evening of great food and wine, don't miss this event. Tickets are \$60 in advance and \$65 at the door. Visit [www.cookedanduncorked.com](http://www.cookedanduncorked.com) to view participating restaurants, wine/spirits, our celebrity judges and for more information. Tickets can be obtained on the website or by calling 732-499-9250.

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Hour: Monday to Wednesday, 10:00a.m. to 9:00p.m., Thursday and Friday, 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m., and Saturday, 10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.

### WINTER STORY

The Cranford Public Library's winter story time session will continue through March 22, 2018. Preschool children ages 3 to 5 are invited to join us on Monday mornings, 2-year-olds have a story time of their own on Tuesdays, babies ages 3- to 12-months are eligible to attend our Lapsit Story Time on Wednesdays, and children ages 13- to 23-months are welcome on Thursday mornings. Each early literacy story time meets at 10:15 a.m. Registration is not required, but we ask that participants arrive on time as we may be unable to accommodate latecomers.

### FAMILY M.E.S.S.

Family M.E.S.S. (Math, Engineering, and Science Saturday) will be meeting on February 17, 2018, at 10:30 a.m. Children ages 2 to 6 and their families will explore educational stations

together, where they will be introduced to scientific concepts, solve problems, and have fun! Registration is required and can be done up to two weeks before the program. Space is limited.

### SENSORY LIBRARY TIME

The Cranford Public Library will be continuing its Sensory Library Time from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, February 9, 2018. This after-hours program was created for children with autism and their families. Families will enjoy browsing the collection in a space that minimizes unnecessary stimulation while connecting with each other. Towards the end of our time together music therapist Jammin' Jenn will lead two sessions of a small group program. Tickets for small group programs, one at 6:30 p.m. and another at 7 p.m., will be given out on a first

come, first served basis beginning at 6 p.m. on the day of the program. No advance registration is required, all Union County Residents are welcome. This program is made possible by a grant.

### EYE LEVEL CHALLENGE

Eye Level will be hosting a series of educational challenges at the Cranford Public Library. Eye Level focuses on helping students develop their critical and analytical thinking skills. The program is designed to help develop depth perception, problem solving, and reasoning skills. Participants will utilize learning materials such as numerical figures, blocks and shapes, clear paper, colored blocks, mirrors, and wooden blocks to solve problems. This drop-in program will be held on February 10, 2018 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

## CRANFORD COMMUNITY CENTER TAKING APPOINTMENTS FOR TAX COUNSELING

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department in conjunction with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) will be taking appointments for free tax assistance.

Cranford and Garwood taxpayers can call the Recreation and Parks Department at 908-709-7283 to reserve a time slot time with a tax practitioner. Hourly appointments are being made on either Mondays or Fridays beginning Friday, February 2, 2018 from 12 p.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

All appointments will be at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Avenue in Room 204. The last appointment to receive tax assistance will be Monday April 16, 2018. No appointments will be made on Monday, February 19, 2018 (Presidents' Day) and Friday, March 30, 2018 (Good Friday), as the Community Center will be closed.

This service is for residents of Cranford and Garwood, and is geared to senior citizens and area residents with low to moderate income. Filing assistance is provided for federal and NJ state income tax returns, and the Property Tax Reimbursement Program (PTR 1&2). Federal and state returns are filed electronically.

Participants should bring the following information: copies of Federal and State returns for 2016 along with 2017 wages, interest, dividends, capital gains, social security, etc. (forms 1099, 1099R, 1099B-W2 & SSA), and property tax bill (2017). A form of identification and, if requesting direct deposit or payment, please bring a blank check showing account

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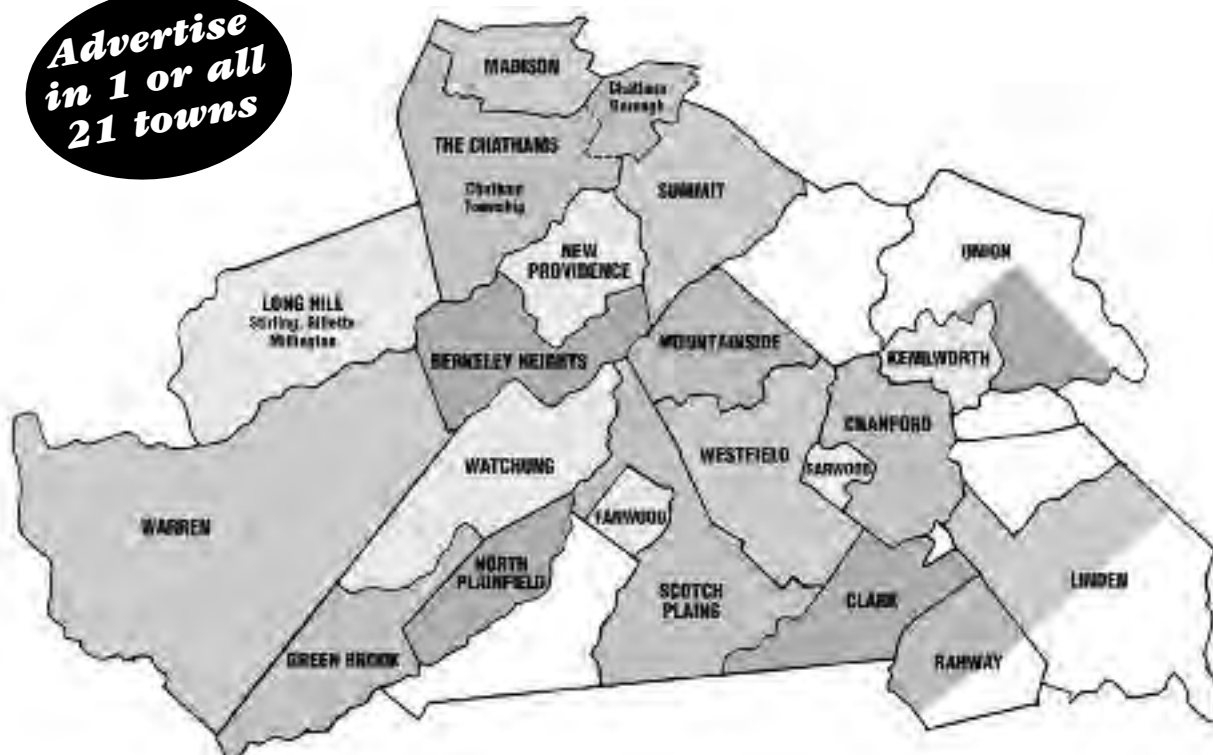
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