# CRANFORD MONTHLYNJ

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#### **CRANFORD HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS 'LEGALLY BLONDE'**

The Cranford High School Performing Arts Department proudly announces their spring musical, "Legally Blonde," with music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin and book by Heather Hach. The show is once again being directed and choreographed by Michelle Massa. The music director is Matt Hosner and technical direction is David Marconi. Stage managers are Emma Ferrentinos and Kayla Murray,

The plot is based on the novel by Amanda Brown and the MGM motion picture starring Reese Witherspoon in 2001. It was transformed into a musical in 2007. The story revolves around a recent college graduate, Elle Woods, who follows the love of her life, Warner, to Harvard Law School where she learns to stand on her own two feet.

Katrina Wischusen, plays the role of Elle Woods and her leading men include Noah Wohlsen as Emmett, Max Kopla as Callahan, and Daniel Klimko ar Warner. Senior Pria McNeil is Paulette, the owner of Hair Affair who befriends Elle when she goes on her journey to Harvard. Other senior standouts include Elle's sidekicks, Haley Baranowski as Brooke, Kelly McMahon as Margot and Laura Salway as

Serena. Junior Rose Michetti is Pilar. Vivienne is being played by Nora Sullivan. Rounding out the featured cast is Julia Saginario, Charlie Bernstein, Katie Manhardt, Robert Morris, Sullivan Grace, Melanie Gabel, Matthew Mallick, Andrew Gordon, and Max Wisnefski. The ensemble includes: Erin Blake, Makayla Cartnick, Ariel Daryani, McKenna Flynn, Marisa Lijo, Katie Malanka, Julianna Marcotrigiano, Garrett Kennedy, Noah Kopla, Sarah Kudron, Elizabeth Molfetto, Madeline Simone, Gina Ricardo, Lee Rosenthal.

Production dates are Friday and Saturday, March 16 and 17, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, March 18, 2018 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 and are available online at chs.booktix.com and at the door. Student rush tickets at a discounted price of \$10 will be available 30 minutes prior to each performance.

A free senior citizen performance is on Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Anthony Rafaniello, 908-709-6291.

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ECRWSS



(above) Members of the cast of Cranford High School's production of "Legally Blonde."

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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: 908-858-4012 Fax: 908-709-9209

Email: editor@rennamedia.com

#### **TEEN MAKES CHOCOLATES FOR A GOOD CAUSE**

By Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

Audrey McMahon received a chocolate melter as a Christmas gift when she was 10. She loved making chocolate so much she became inspired to sell chocolate pops in order to raise money for charities. Originally, she donated to St. Judes because they helped children, but she wanted to switch to an organization that was closer to home.

Audrey choose Liam's Room, a non-profit which funds the education of health care providers on the implementation of pediatric palliative care by attending seminars, conferences, and training programs throughout the country. Liam's Room was founded in 2007 and was originally based in Westfield and now has locations in Morristown and in Summit.

Since Audrey began making the pops and selling them for charities, she has collected more than \$1900. Audrey is now 13 and in 7th grade. Her mother, Suzanne McMahon, doesn't know if

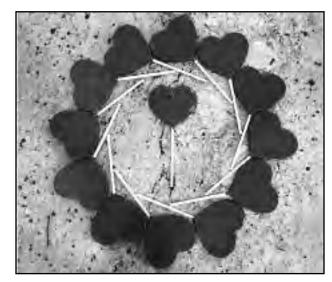
selling the pops will go on indefinitely.

"She's a busy kid and it's a lot of work. We don't have a factory," said Suzanne jokingly. "We're figuring it out as we go along. We've gotten pretty good at it, but if it got any bigger, we'd need warehouse space."

In addition to making chocolate pops, Audrey, said she likes sports, drawing, and hanging out with her friends.

The pops are \$4 each and are available in three flavors: milk chocolate, dark chocolate, and dark chocolate with sea salt. They are available at Augusta Mae Boutique, 35 Alden Street, Cranford, New Jersey; and Guillotine Salon & Spa, 108 Central Avenue, Westfield, New Jersey. Orders are available for donations of \$20 or more by emailing: dosomegood@icloud.com

For more information on Liam's Room, visit: liamsroom.org





(above) Chocolate Pops created by Audrey McMahon.



(above) Audrey McMahon. Photo by Suzanne McMahon.

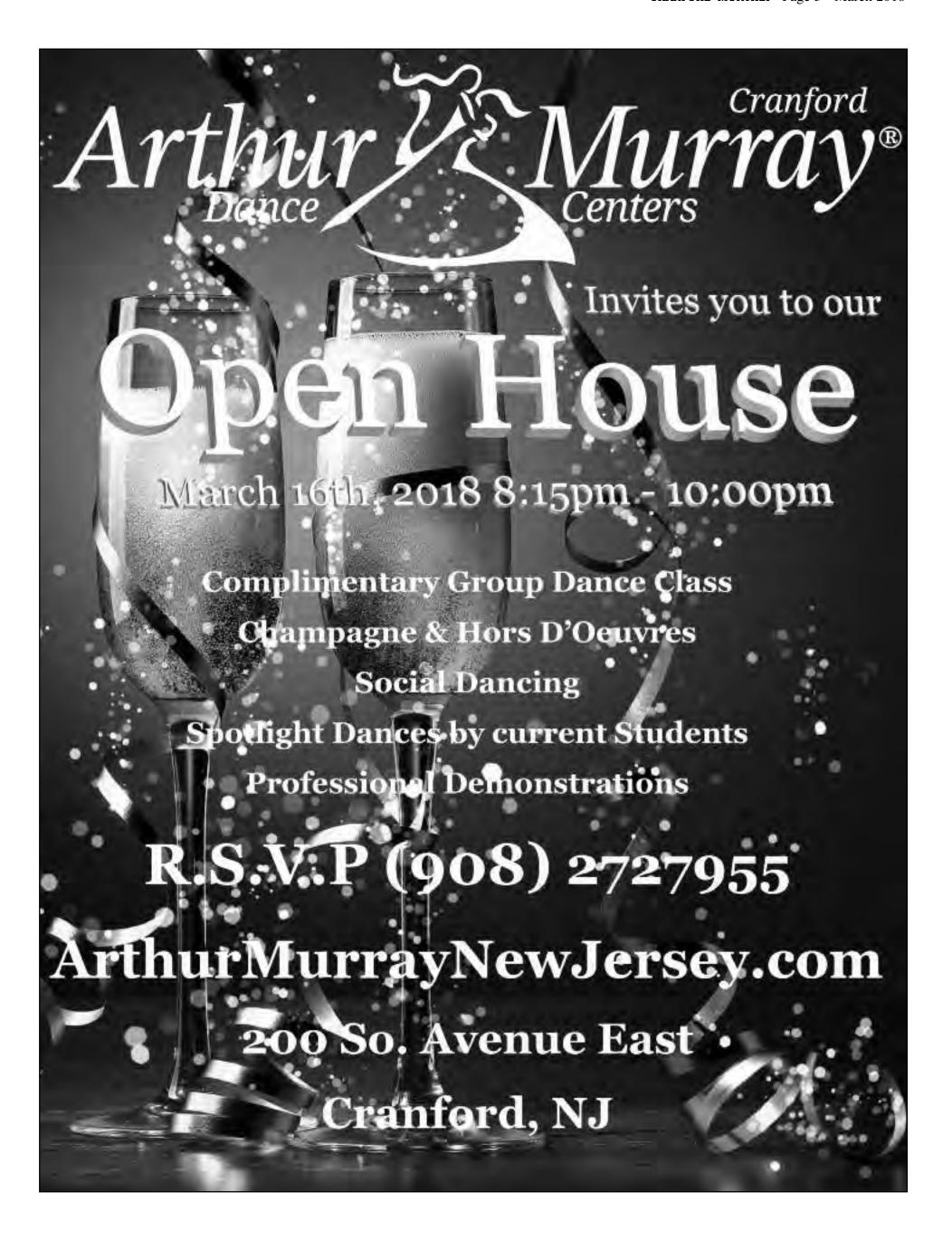
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#### **'ORGANIC VEGETABLE GARDENING'** AT CRANFORD COMMUNITY CENTER

Tuesday, March 20, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. at the Cranford Community Center for the presentation, "Organic Vegetable Gardening" with Virginia Lamb, environmental educator from Rutgers Home Gardeners' School. Come learn how to start or improve your vegetable garden, whether

Please join the Hanson Park Conservancy on you're a beginner or an experienced veteran. Learn how to grow the garden that suits your needs and yields the bounty of your choosing. Topics include sustainable soil management, variety selection, companion planting, mulching, cover cropping and succession planting, with an emphasis on organic methods. A vegetable garden is within reach to anyone who has access to a little soil and sunshine!

> Instructor Virginia Lamb is an educator with over 25 years of experience, specializing in composting and organic gardening. She has lectured extensively throughout the region to groups, companies, non-profit community/government organizations. Virginia is currently pursuing her MS in Soil Science, with a focus on the potential for soils to mitigate climate change. She lives with her family in Maplewood.

> The Cranford Community Center is located at 220 Walnut Avenue in Cranford, New Jersey. The program is free and open to the public. No registration is required, but seating is available on a first-come, first-serve basis, so please arrive early! This presentation is sponsored by the Hanson Park Conservancy.

> To learn more, please visit our website, hansonparkconservancy.com or like us on Facebook:

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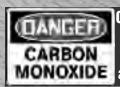
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#### CRANFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT INITIATES COMMUNITY POLICING UNIT

In an effort to continue to foster community engagement between law enforcement and our community, Chief Ryan J. Greco announced the creation of a Community Policing Unit within the Cranford Police Department. The philosophy of Community Policing involves a shared responsibility between residents and our police officers to improve the quality of life in the Township of Cranford. "Through identifying problem-solving initiatives that work to reduce crime and empower residents, our community works to study and solve problems together," said Chief Greco.

The two-officer unit ensures that a Community Policing Officer will be available seven days a week. Some initiatives involve performing public outreach with local community groups, security surveys, targeted patrols, quality of life matters, and hearing concerns from the public in a non-emergent means. One initiative specifically incorporates Cranford's downtown businesses and its patrons. The "Coffee with a Cop" program will allow for residents to meet with the Community Policing Officers and other members of the department to discuss any community concerns, ask questions, and get to know members of our department.

By offering these impromptu opportunities to hear from residents in a less formal environment, matters that sometimes went unanswered and unreported can now be brought to the attention of Township departments. "While not every matter may be related to a police-response, our officers will offer direction to residents to achieve resolutions to their community concerns," added Chief Greco.

This community oriented Problem-Solving

model is an extension of the Cranford Police Department's existing community engagement. In the past, successful programming including Current Drug Trend Presentations, National Night Out, Community Discussion Panels, and the joint School-Resource Officer programs with the Cranford Public Schools have proven effective in proactive policing. The creation of a unit within the Investigative Division of the Cranford Police Department expands upon this goal of community engagement and involvement.

Currently, Patrolmen Robert Jordan and John Rattigan are assigned to the Cranford Police Department Community Policing Unit. "Both Patrolmen Jordan and Rattigan are experienced, well-rounded officers who have a thumb on the pulse of law enforcement trends and our community needs," said Chief Greco. Members of the community are encouraged to visit the department's website at cranfordnj.org/police-department and click on "Community Policing Unit" to get tips, details of upcoming events, or find contact information.

Residents, Business Owners, and Community Groups are encouraged to contact

Ptl. Rattigan and Ptl. Jordan at 908-272-8989 or j-rattigan@cranfordnj.org and r-jordan@cranfordnj.org



(above): Community Policing Unit Patrolman John Rattigan speaking to residents, at National Night Out, about the Department's Conductive Energy Devices (CED).

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#### **UNION COUNTY CLERK JOANNE RAJOPPI TO BE PRESENTED WITH** "WOMEN IN AMERICAN HISTORY" AWARD





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March is Women's History month and the Crane's Ford Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) chapter will be presenting Joanne Rajoppi, Union County Clerk, with the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution "Women in American History" award on Saturday, March 10, 2018, at noon at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ.

The "Women in American History" award, sponsored by the NSDAR, is designed to recognize worthy women, and celebrate their contribution to history, culture, and society.

Joanne Rajoppi is the first woman County clerk in the 154-year history of Union County. She is the former Mayor of Springfield, former Union County Freeholder and first woman chairman of the Freeholder Board, and former NJ Assistant Secretary of State during the Byrne Administration. She has been an advocate for women running for public office, writing her first book, "Women in Office: Getting There and Staying There" in 1993.

As an author, her first book published in 2013 chronicled the military service of her greatgrandfather during the American Civil War titled "New Brunswick and the Civil War: The Brunswick Boys in the Great Rebellion" letters he wrote to his family. She followed the story with the Hamilton women after the war writing her most recent book: "Northern Women in the Aftermath of the Civil War: The Wives and Daughters of the Brunswick Boys." This book was published in 2017. Ms. Rajoppi will be presenting a power-point program on her most recent book and copies of the book will be available for purchase.

The public is invited to join us for the presentation with a reception to follow. The Crane's Ford chapter will also be celebrating its 74th Anniversary, chartered on March 8, 1944.

The NSDAR is a volunteer women's service

organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, historic preservation, service to veterans and meaningful community service. Membership is open to any woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American Independence. For more information or DAR application please contact our chapter Registrar, Patricia Campanelli at patushkat@aol.com.



#### **CRANFORD POOL AND FITNESS CENTER REGISTRATION BEGINS MARCH 5**

The Cranford Pool and Fitness Center, is created or accessed using Community Pass at pleased to announce that registration for our 2018 Summer and Annual memberships begin March 5, 2018, for Cranford residents and April 2, 2018 for non-residents.

Registration may be done online or in person at the Fitness Center, which is located at 401 Pool ("Registration" option) or send an email to Centennial Avenue, Cranford, NJ.

In-person registration and picture ID hours are as follows:

Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.;

Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.;

and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Online registration is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Accounts for online registration may be

register.communitypass.net/cranford.

If you already have an account with Community Pass/Recreation Department, you can use that login information. If you forgot your user name and password, please call the pool@cranfordnj.org.

Please do not set up a new account if you forgot your old one, as your IDs will no longer be valid.

If you are creating a new account, upon completing registration you will receive an email containing your login information.

For more information, please go to our website at cranfordnj.org or contact the Swim Pool Utility at 908-709-7260.

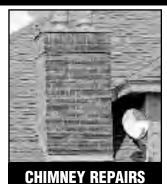


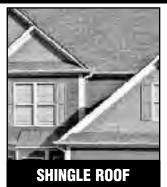




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#### **GIRL SCOUTS OF CRANFORD HOST 5TH ANNUAL PINEWOOD DERBY**

The Girl Scouts of Cranford hosted nearly 200 Girl Scouts of all ages at the organizations 5th Annual Pinewood Derby Day. Cadette Troop 40444 of Hillside Avenue School organized the races that took place on Saturday, January 27, 2018 at the Cranford United Methodist Church. Girls of all ages put their hand-crafted cars to the test, competing for one of the top prizes. Other award categories included most humorous, most detailed, most bling, best engineered car, best wedge car, best use of glitter, most original, best movie and TV themed car, and best in show.

Erin Esteves and Stephanie Patterson, the Cadette Troop 40444 leaders, spearheaded the Girl Scout Pinewood Derby five years ago to help encourage STEM learning for the girls within our community. STEM is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific

disciplines — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — in an interdisciplinary and applied approach.

"Our 5th Girl Scout Pinewood Derby was a smashing success! We are so grateful to the girl scouts of Cranford for their participation and enthusiasm for this event," stated Esteves.

Cadette troop 40444 also collected canned goods throughout the event to be donated to Cranford Family Cares, a non-profit organization that provides temporary assistance to individuals and families in Cranford. Funding is provided for food, shelter, education, and medical assistance when needed.

In addition, the troop took the opportunity to promote their upcoming community service project during the Derby. The young scouts are partnering with A Birthday Wish, a not-for-profit organization located in Westfield, New Jersey that gives children in foster care a birthday gift and card selected specifically for them. The troop is collecting birthday gifts as well as wrapping materials and will host a "wrap" party in late February. For additional information, please contact cranfordgsderby@gmail.com.

The Girl Scouts of Cranford boasts over 1,139 Girl Scout Members in 67 troops and Juliette's making it one of the largest non-profit organizations in town. The Cranford Service Unit is a part of the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey (GSHNJ) Council which is part of the Girl Scouts of the USA.

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



(above, l-r) Winners: Charlotte Dipaolo (1st Place), Charlotte Ferruggia (3rd Place), Lila Schau (2nd Place), Addison McCarthy (4th Place).





(above) Cadette Troop 40444 before the start of the races.



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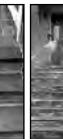


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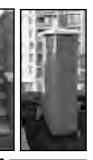
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#### **AGENTS OF CHANGE: FAMOUS WOMEN IN NEW JERSEY HISTORY**

In honor of Women's History Month, The three-time winner of a share of New Jersey's Friends of the Cranford Public Library are pleased to sponsor a lecture on New Jersey's most influential women. Lecturer and photographer Jim DelGiudice will present "Agents of Change: Famous Women in New Jersey History" on Monday, March 19, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford. Attendees will learn about philanthropists, performers, politicians and more, as well as the social context of their lives.

Jim DelGiudice has studied and documented New Jersey's history for more than 25 years. A

Historic Preservation Award, DelGiudice has provided lectures at Drew University, Columbia University, and the County College of Morris. Rutgers University Press has published several of his architectural photograph books. His Judgson Lecture Series focuses on topics of New Jersey history, photography, and general interest.

Admission to the program is free and all are welcome. To see other upcoming programs sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library, go to cranfordlibrary.org and click on Calendar or Upcoming Events.

#### **OBITUARY FOR JAMES O. SWETMAN**

James O. Swetman, 88, passed away Thursday, February 8, 2018. Born in Biloxi, Mississippi, he lived in Cranford, New Jersey since 1957.

A Memorial Mass was held Tuesday, February 13, at Saint Michael's Church, 40 Alden Street,

Swetman served as an Army MP during the Korean War. He was a merchandizer for Wakefern Corporation for many years.

An avid bowler, he loved gardening and spending time with his family.

Swetman was predeceased by his wife, Genevieve (Matrangolo) Swetman last year.

He is survived by three children, Linda Vicci, Mark Swetman (Laurie), and Deborah Linthicum; five grandchildren, Christopher Vicci (Jacqueline), Anna Roga (Matthew), Gregory Vicci, James T. Swetman, and Emma Linthicum; and his great-granddaughter, Ava Vicci.



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# USED BOOK SALE AT CRANFORD LIBRARY

Looking for some good reading at bargain prices? The Friends of the Cranford Public Library invite you to visit their used book sale in the Cranford Public Library's Friendly Book Cellar on Wednesday, March 7, 4 to 8:30 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, March 8 and 9, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Saturday, March 10, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Items for sale include more than 10,000 adult and children's books, as well as CDs, DVDs, and recorded books. Prices range from \$.25 to \$2 except for a few specially marked items.

Saturday is Bag Day; fill a bag with books for just \$8.

The library is located at 224 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ. Entrance to the sale is through the side door, just off the main parking lot. The sale is wheelchair accessible. Proceeds benefit the library. For more information about the Friends of the Cranford Public Library, go to cranfordlibrary.org and click on Friends of the Library.







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#### **CHILDREN'S EVENTS AT CRANFORD LIBRARY**

224 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016 • Phone: 908-709-7272
Email: library@cranfordnj.org • Web: cranford.com/library
Library hours are Monday to Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.,
Thursday and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

#### New Jersey Makers Day will be held,

Saturday, March 10, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. it's a celebration of hands on creation! Stop by to enjoy a variety of activities and demonstrations centered on fiber arts. Children with sensory processing issues who would prefer to avoid the crowds are invited to join us on

Friday, March 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. as we create "I Spy" bottles.

#### Family Fort Night will be held,

Friday, March 16, 4:45 to 6 p.m.

What's more fun than building the perfect blanket fort? Doing it at the library, of course! Bring an old sheet or blanket and a pillow, we'll supply the books, and stay in the library past closing time to create a fort to read in. Registartion is not required, but be sure to make it on time, library doors close at 5 p.m.

#### Family M.E.S.S

#### (Math, Engineering, and Science Saturday)

will be meeting on March 17 at 10:30 a.m. Children ages 2 to 5 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.

#### Fun with Poetry Workshop will be held on

Tuesday, March 20, at 3:30 p.m.

First to third grade students are invited to join us.

Participants will play rhyming games, act out some poems in small groups, and draw what they hear in a poem. Registration is required and can be done up to two weeks in advance.

### The library's winter story time session will continue through

March 22.

Preschool children ages 3 to 5 are invited to join us on Monday mornings. Two-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.

For a list of other upcoming programs, visit the library Web page at cranfordlibrary.org. For more information call Lauren Antolino, Children's Librarian at 908-709-7272, or email l-antolino@cranfordnj.com.







#### **SPRINGFEST! SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018**

Winter is coming to an end and that can mean and an all-round festive atmosphere. only one thing - it's time for Bayern Verein Newark's SpringFest!

Munich's Fruehlingsfest Germany, (Springfest in English) is the sister event to the city's legendary beer festival held later in the year. Known as Little Oktoberfest, the festival welcomes thousands of people to the Bavarian capital for more than two weeks of traditional celebration, including plenty of beer, food, music, March 24, 2018 at the Kenilworth Veteran's

And just like in Munich, our German festival will welcome Spring, complete with German cuisine, pretzels, beer, wine, music by Bernie's Orchestra, as well as our own traditional German Schuhplattlers and Folkdancers in Lederhosen and Dirndls - all in a Festhalle right in Kenilworth, NJ!

Join us in kicking off the season on Saturday,

Center, 33 South 21st Street, Kenilworth, NJ at 6 p.m. Admission: \$35 per person, \$10 Children ages 6-16 years; Under 6 years - Free, and includes a hot food platter, dessert and tea/coffee as well as imported and domestic beer, wine, soda and water throughout the evening.

For More Information contact Ralph Ehmann at (908) 265-1602 or ehmanntool@aol.com or Betty Bunger at (732) 463-7855 embunger@gmail.com.





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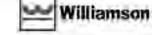
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#### PRESERVATION ADDRESSED BY HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD

Submitted by Maureen Strazdon

Preservation isn't the opposite of development and Cranford needs to grow and be dynamic to remain viable. But that development needs to be carefully considered and planned, with an overall vision that includes all aspects of the past, present, and future. That is the position that the Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB), a Township-appointed resource, has taken on planning and development in Cranford this past year, advising the Township Committee that planning which includes preserving the unique character and feel of Cranford will continue to make the town a desirable location for living and working and a model for sustainable growth.

In addressing the draft plan on Redevelopment of North Avenue, HPAB noted that several state-recognized historically significant resources could be impacted by the redevelopment activity and that the plan differs from Cranford's historic downtown development pattern. Also, HPAB pointed out that redevelopment in the flood zone, especially near the State-recognized North Cranford Historic District (NCHD), is of concern. HPAB's view is that only by comparing a variety of alternatives can an informed decision be reached.

Earlier in the year, in response to other development proposals, HPAB advocated enhancement of the Master Plan and Downtown Standards and stated a desire to work with Township officials and committees in developing those plans. To that end, HPAB is supporting the

DMC in their Strategic Plan and in their efforts to have Cranford designated as a Certified Local Government.

The inventory of Cranford's historical resources that was compiled by HPAB in 2016 is the beginning of a comprehensive approach to assessing Cranford's historic resources and can support the design and style guidelines as recommended in the DMC Strategic Plan, as well as the Master Plan for use by the Zoning and Planning Boards. According to Kinney Clark, HPAB member and author of the report, the survey will help develop an objective basis for decision-making and help establish a community vision for how best to incorporate historic resources into the development plans for Cranford. The 980-page report, Phase I Cranford Historic Resources Survey: Review of Existing Documentation, Baseline Inventory, and Survey Updates, includes descriptions, maps and supporting materials detailing many of the significant buildings and other assets throughout town. It details resources identified in studies done by various government and private organizations over the years. A Library exhibit in May featured the report, and Mr. Clark made a presentation on the report at the Community Center in November.

Recently the resource report has been expanded to include a story map that provides a more visual presentation of the information and enables users to click icons to view an image and details for each documented resource. It can be accessed on HPAB's website.

preservecranford.com.

In addition to advising the Township of Cranford on laws and activities impacting preservation, HPAB also completed several other projects to further its mission of aiding in the preservation of Cranford's architectural heritage through documentation and education of the public as to the value of preservation. These included applying in May for a Certification of Eligibility with the NJ State Historic Preservation Office for the Masonic Building on Union Avenue North. A Certification of Eligibility is a formal finding that a property or area is eligible to be designated as historic by the State and verifies its historical significance. HPAB will continue to apply for certifications of other buildings and districts.

HPAB is a Township Committee established by an Ordinance in 1993. Members of HPAB for 2017 were Vic Bary, Kinney Clark, Bill King, Maureen McDougall, Pria McNeil (student member), Ron Meeks, Teresa Montani, Loretta Smith, and Maureen Strazdon (chair). Associate members were Thomas Connolly, Michael Mason, Julie Murphy, Nancy Price, and Stephen Price. Patrick Giblin served as Township Committee Liaison.

For more information about Cranford history and HPAB activities, visit HPAB's website (preservecranford.com) and HPAB's Facebook page. HPAB met every month, except for August, usually on the fourth Thursday at the Community Center. All are invited to attend.

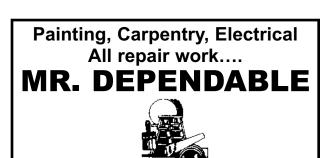


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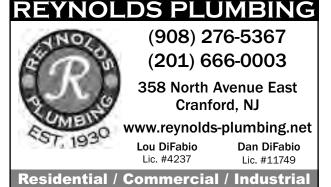
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### NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI) MARCH 2018 EVENTS

Are you feeling stressed and alone in trying to cope with the effects of a loved one's mental health illness? Join our peer led group monthly meetings and gain insight from others facing similar challenges. NAMI hold their Union County Family Support Group Meetings the third Tuesday of every month. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 20, 7:30 to 9 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey. For more information, call 908-233-1628 or email namiunioncounty@yahoo.com.

Free Course on Mental Illness. The NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program begins on Thursday evening, March 22. Presented by the Union County Chapter of NAMI, the course meets 7 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings, over a consecutive 12-week period. Course ends on May 31. It is free-of-charge, with all necessary materials furnished at no cost.

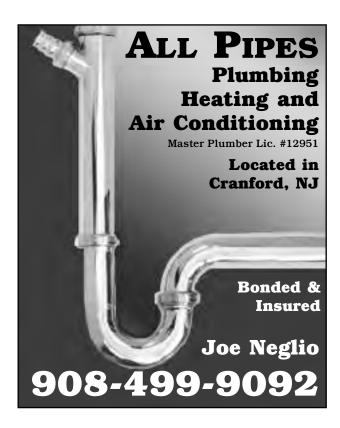
The course is offered specifically to the

parents, siblings, spouses, teen-age and adult children, and significant others of individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. In a confidential setting, loved ones will learn how to understand and support their ill relative while maintaining their own well-being. The program is not appropriate for individuals who, themselves, suffer from one of the major mental disorders. The course is taught by NAMI members who have completed intensive training.

Curriculum topics include schizophrenia, bipolar disorder (manic depression), clinical depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and others, the clinical treatment of these illnesses, and how caregivers can learn to cope more effectively. Attendees will learn about the biology of the brain, new research, medications, skills needed to successfully communicate with a relative, and how to deal with critical periods. Other topics include advocacy, fighting stigma and problem solving.

Classes will meet at St. Agnes Church, 332 Madison Hill Road, Clark, New Jersey. Registration is required prior to the beginning of the course. Call Pat at 732-382-0762 or email patroman2@aol.com. Please include in the subject line: F2F class. A F2F teacher will contact you with the details. Refreshments will be served.

Understanding New Perspectives on Mental Health Diagnoses. The Union County NAMI invites the public to hear a presentation by Anne Community Director of Lopez, Education/Outreach with the Mental Health Association of New Jersey. Her goal and mission is to empower families and individuals living with a mental health diagnosis or substance abuse through education and support. The presentation will be held Tuesday, March 27, at 7:30 p.m. at RWJ Rahway Fitness and Wellness Center, 2120 Lamberts Mill Road, Scotch Plains, New Jersey. For more information, call 908-233-1628 or email namiunioncounty@yahoo.com.







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**Serious Inquiries Please!** 





#### **19 SPORTS GEARING UP FOR SPRING SEASON**

Jason Johnson, owner of I9 Sports is preparing for his Spring season. I9 Sports provides youth sports leagues, camps, and clinics for boys and girls ages 3 and older in today's most popular sports such as flag football, soccer, basketball, and baseball. Their age appropriate curriculum is designed to teach children to learn the sport, develop skills, and most of all, have fun. All programs teach sportsmanship so that kids can learn not just the game but life skills also.

The local I9 Sports programs are held in Nomahegan Park in Cranford, and Rutgers Avenue Park and The Patrick School in Hillside. The Spring season includes a Baseball Instructional Program on Sundays from 3pm - 6pm for boys and girls ages 3 - 6. Flag Football Instructional Program on Sundays for boys and girls ages 4 - 10; and a Soccer League on Sundays for boys and girls ages 3 - 10.

Reigstration can be done online at i9sports.com or by calling 908-212-3200.



(above) Coache TJ Fowler of Kenilworth





(above) 19 Sports soccer players from Springfield, Mountainside, Union & Cranford Photos from 19 2017 season can be found online on the Cranford Monthly page on rennamedia.com and on the Cranford Monthly page on facebook.com.





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#### **FRIDAY - SATURDAY**

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Kids 3-6	\$3.99	Kids 3-6	\$5.99	
2 & Under		2 & Under	FREE!	

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#### IRS ALERTS PUBLIC ABOUT SCAMS TARGETING TAXPAYERS

The IRS is urging the public to be aware of suspicious individuals claiming to be from the IRS.

Thousands of people have lost millions of dollars and their personal information to tax scams. Scammers use the regular mail, telephone, or email to set up individuals, businesses, payroll, and tax professionals.

The IRS doesn't initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text messages, or social media channels to request personal or financial information. Recognize the telltale signs of a scam.

### SCAMS TARGETING TAXPAYERS IRS-IMPERSONATION TELEPHONE SCAMS

A sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers, including recent immigrants, has been making the rounds throughout the country. Callers claim to be IRS employees, using fake names and bogus IRS identification badge numbers. They may know a lot about their targets, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling.

Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a gift card or wire transfer. Victims may be threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting. Victims may be told they have a refund due to try to trick them into sharing private information. If the phone isn't answered, the scammers often leave an "urgent" callback request.

Some thieves have used video relay services (VRS) to try to scam deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Taxpayers are urged not trust calls just because they are made through VRS, as interpreters don't screen calls for validity.

Limited English Proficiency victims are often approached in their native language, threatened with deportation, police arrest and license revocation, among other things. IRS urges all taxpayers caution before paying unexpected tax bills. Note that the IRS doesn't:





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- Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer.
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- Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.
- Demand payment without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

#### **SCAMS TARGETING TAX PROFESSIONALS**

Increasingly, tax professionals are being targeted by identity thieves. These criminals – many of them sophisticated, organized syndicates - are redoubling their efforts to gather personal data to file fraudulent federal and state income tax returns.

#### SURGE IN EMAIL, PHISHING AND MALWARE SCHEMES

Phishing (as in "fishing for information") is a scam where fraudsters send e-mail messages to trick unsuspecting victims into revealing personal and financial information that can be used to steal the victims' identity.

The IRS has issued several alerts about the fraudulent use of the IRS name or logo by scammers trying to gain access to consumers'

financial information to steal their identity and assets.

Scam emails are designed to trick taxpayers into thinking these are official communications from the IRS or others in the tax industry, including tax software companies. These phishing schemes may seek information related to refunds, filing status, confirming personal information, ordering transcripts, and verifying PIN information.

Be alert to bogus emails that appear to come from your tax professional, requesting information for an IRS form. IRS doesn't require Life Insurance and Annuity updates from taxpayers or a tax professional.

Variations can be seen via text messages. The IRS is aware of email phishing scams that include links to bogus web sites intended to mirror the official IRS web site. These emails contain the direction "you are to update your IRS e-file immediately." These emails are not from the IRS.

The sites may ask for information used to file false tax returns or they may carry malware, which can infect computers and allow criminals to access your files or track your keystrokes to gain information.

For more details, visit www.irs.gov; YouTube IRS Videos on Tax Scams.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Cranford Police Department.



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# CRANFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS

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#### **MARCH EVENTS**

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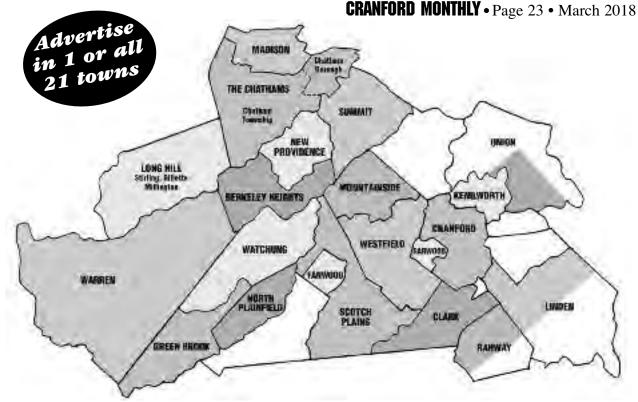
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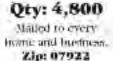
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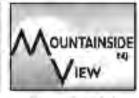
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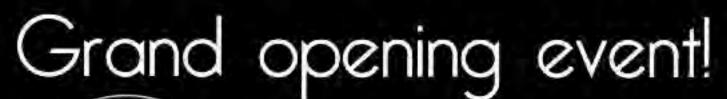
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FRIDAY, MARCH 9 AT 7:00 P.M. 25 NORTH AVENUE EAST • CRANFORD, NJ

# DECO HAIR SALON TO HOST GRAND OPENING EVENT IN CELEBRATION OF NEW LOCATION

Maria Fahey, a Cranford resident for over 20 years, opened up her dream salon located on Centennial Avenue all on her own. Now, seven years later, with a full team behind her, including her own daughter, she has moved right into the heart of town to 25 North Avenue East, which was formerly where the salon It's All About Me was located, but this time with a fresh, new look.

Deco Hair Salon is a full-service salon offering clients a tranquil environment where they are able to relax and pamper themselves. From the latest hair color techniques and haircutting to formal hairstyling, all of the stylists at Deco Hair Salon have the experience and training to cater to their client's needs.

"We are really excited to join the downtown community of Cranford," says Maria. "Now with a bigger space, we are able to expand our service menu to include services such as facials for our clients."

For those who have to commute every day and rely on public transportation, Deco's new location is also a great feature for those looking for a convenient option as it is right in front of the Cranford train station and one of NJ Transit's bus stops in town.

On Friday, March 9, Deco Hair Salon will be hosting a grand opening for current and future clients to enjoy. Guests will be able to tour the salon and get a feel of what the Deco team is all about by having a chance to interact with them throughout the night. Raffles will also be available for guests to enter and win some exciting prizes, while also enjoying light refreshments.



NOW ACCEPTING APPOINTMENTS 908-272-4466

#### Hours of operation:

Sunday - closed Monday - closed

Tuesday - 10:00 am - 6:00 pm Wednesday - 10:00 am - 6:00 pm Thursday - 10:00 am - 7:30 pm Friday - 10:00 am - 7:30 pm Saturday - 8:00 am - 3:00 pm