

*Submitted by: Don Sweeney member of the Memorial Day Parade committee.*

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

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.

The parade will assemble at 8:30 a.m. at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey. Marching will start at 9 a.m. The parade will finish with services at approximately 10 a.m. at Memorial Park on Springfield Avenue. In case of inclement weather, services only will be held at the Community Center.

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## JUDGE SWEARS IN CASA VOLUNTEERS

Submitted by Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan

Community members from Cranford, Elizabeth, Fanwood, Linden, North Bergen, Scotch Plains, Bridgewater and Summit recently completed child advocacy training in order to serve as extra eyes and ears for family law judges hearing cases involving Union County's abused, neglected or abandoned children placed in foster care. The volunteers, ranging from 25 to 62-years-old, were officially sworn in recently as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) by Union County Superior Court Judge James Hely.

Family, friends, CASA staff and board members looked on as Judge Hely administered oaths to the new advocates, who also received a commemorative pin and certificate. Each were matched to their foster youth or sibling set during a celebratory luncheon following the ceremony.

Volunteers with varied backgrounds make successful advocates and this class is no exception. Each brings diverse experiences, including a former foster youth, former teen mom, single parent, immigrant, soon-to-be first-time mom, and sibling of an adoptee.

Professionally, members of the training class have backgrounds ranging from high school to graduate degrees, and employment that includes social services, corporate work, and self-employment. Both parents and non-parents were in the class, and most had no prior knowledge of the foster system.

CASA volunteers have court-ordered access to all parties in a foster child's life, including foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists, and teachers, and incorporate into court reports findings from these contacts as well as from their own time spent with the youth. Volunteers advocate in the community and in court to ensure a youth's needs are met and their time in care is as short as possible. It is CASA of Union County's goal that every area foster child have a CASA volunteer; yet half of the 600 Union County youth in care still await an advocate. More volunteers are needed to become a foster youth's voice.

For details on training or other ways to help the organization reach more foster youth, contact Courtney at 908-293-8136 or cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org.



(above, l-r) Outside the family courthouse in Elizabeth are, from left, newly sworn in CASA volunteers James Anglin of Fanwood, Tiffany Parchment of Elizabeth, Laurie Rando of Scotch Plains, September Patterson of North Bergen, Jaime Castro of Bridgewater, Melinda Giffen Frater of Summit and Kennisha Qualls of Linden. Not pictured is Cranford's Jim Van Horn.



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## A CELEBRATION OF POETRY AT CRANFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

*Submitted by Jean Kreiling*

A poetry recitation event named "Poetry by Heart" was recently held in the Cranford Public Library's Raddin Room. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library and helped by the children's librarian, Lauren Antolino, the goal of the program was for children to memorize and recite a poem. One of the Friends told the children, "A wonderful thing happens to you when you memorize a poem. It stays with you for life." To demonstrate this, she recited "The Owl and the Pussy Cat," a poem she had learned as a child. Two adults then recited poems which they had learned years ago.

The program was introduced by ninth grader Anna Lancelotti who spoke about poetry and read a poem of her own composition named "The Spider." Several children then recited poems which they had memorized. Karly Ohngemach recited "Overdues" by Shel Silverstein, Luigi Lancelloti recited "Slow Sloth's Song" by Jack Prelutsky, Maddie Dennis recited "The Battle" by Shel Silverstein, Celeste DelGuercio recited "The Wind" by Christina Rossetti, Cheyenne Cora

recited "Stranger Things" by Millie Bobby Brown, and Aashritha Jinagra read "Librarian" a poem which she had composed.

Afterwards, a game was played in which the children tried to guess the missing rhyming words in limericks. They also decorated a banner with the poems they had memorized which is

now hanging in the library's Raddin Room. The program concluded with pizza, lemonade and promises by the children that they would return next year when the Friends of the Cranford Library once again sponsor "Poetry by Heart."

Visit the Cranford Library at: [cranfordlibrary.org/](http://cranfordlibrary.org/)



(above, l-r) Luigi Lancelloti, Maddie Dennis, Celeste DelGuercio, Cheyenne Cora, Karly Ohngemach, and Aashritha Jinagra.

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## THE CELEBRATION SINGERS SPRING 2018 CONCERT

*Submitted by Christopher Silvestri*



*(above) The Celebration Singers Adult Choir at St Michael's in Cranford New Jersey for their annual winter concert.*

The Celebration Singers would like to invite you to our spring concert titled "Music from the Heart, from the Soul" at Union County College, Roy Smith Theater, 1033 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey at 8 p.m. on June 1 and June 2, 2018. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children and seniors. Tickets can be purchased in advance through our website, [celebrationsingers.org](http://celebrationsingers.org), or at the box office at the night of the concert. Any questions concerning the performances can be directed to our email at [celebrationsingersnewjersey@gmail.com](mailto:celebrationsingersnewjersey@gmail.com) or to our landline at 908-552-4656.

The Celebration Singers are multi-generational ambassadors of song drawing music from a breadth of genres and cultures. The Choir's commitment to artistic excellence and its engaging and dynamic style provide its diverse singers and audiences with a compelling musical experience. The Choir lends support through music and participates in the cultural life of the community.

Please also visit our Facebook page: [facebook.com/Celebrationsingers](https://facebook.com/Celebrationsingers).

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(above) Trooper Brandon Rosario.  
Delaware State Police Graduation Day,  
February 16, 2018.

# BRANDON ROSARIO OF CRANFORD BECOMES DELAWARE STATE TROOPER

Submitted by Marisol Rosario

Brandon Rosario was born and raised in Cranford, New Jersey. He is a graduate of Cranford High School. He also graduated from Union County College with an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice.

Brandon is a hard worker and had several jobs working part-time jobs at Shop-Rite, Fed-Ex, and landscaping. At the same time, Brandon kept studying and testing for Law Enforcement jobs. He applied in New Jersey as well as out of state. This career in Law Enforcement is very competitive and you have to stay determined.

Brandon submitted an application to Delaware State Police in April of 2016. He continuously got called to take written, physical, oral, polygraph, and psychological tests. This whole process took one and a half years before he finally passed all

requirements and was offered a position at Delaware State Police Academy.

Brandon started the Delaware State Police Academy on September 10, 2017.

This move wasn't an easy one as he had to leave his family, pet, and friends behind with no time for planning, but Brandon was determined to finish the academy and become a Delaware State Police.

I am pleased to announce that Brandon Rosario has completed the six months of training in the Delaware State Police Academy on Friday, February 16, 2018 and is now officially a Delaware State Trooper.

Congratulations to Brandon Rosario on this great accomplishment and best of luck in his new Career.

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The Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive is happening on Saturday, May 12, 2018. On this day, you can set out your non-perishable food before your letter carrier's regular pick up time. The top requested non-perishable food items are: cereal, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meals (such as soups, chili, and/or pasta), 100 percent juice, peanut butter, macaroni & cheese, canned protein (tuna, chicken, and/or turkey), beans (canned or dry). You can also donate healthy, low-sodium, low-sugar items such as beans, oatmeal, and other whole grains, and canola or olive oil.

Please do not donate frozen food, homemade food, or home-canned items. Please do not donate items that have expired or are in glass containers. In keeping with good food-handling and food-safety procedures, food that is opened, damaged, out of code or does not have the official ingredients will be discarded by the food bank in the sorting process.

The Food Drive is primarily a people food drive, but if you also want to give pet food in addition to your regular donation, food banks may be able to distribute or direct it to pet shelters and organizations in the area that have a need.

Please do not donate any form of individual baby food products, including formula, jarred vegetables and fruits, meals, snacks, infant cereal. Baby food may be donated by the case or pallet, but single item donations present potential contamination risks and special handling requirements.

The Food Drive is primarily a food drive, but if you also want to give personal care items (such as diapers, laundry detergent, soap, toilet paper,

and household cleaning items) in addition to your regular donation, food banks may be able to distribute or put them to good use with organizations that also provide help to those in need. Please note that not all food banks will be able to accept these items.

If you would like to volunteer with food distribution and sorting, or in any other capacity, call your local post office and ask to speak to the local food drive person there. Many food banks have a great need for volunteers on Food Drive Day, as well as all throughout the year.

All donations to the Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive are tax-deductible because all the food collected on Food Drive Day is given directly to non-profit charity food agencies in the community the food was collected. Though the National Association of Letter Carriers plans the Food Drive's logistics and letter carriers provide the transportation for each donor's generous donation, the National Association of Letter Carriers is not the agency that gets listed on tax forms for claiming deductions. There are more than 10,000 food agencies throughout the country that receive these donations, so if you itemize your taxes and want to provide proper credit for your Food Drive donations, you will need to determine the name of the agency (food pantry or other charity) that received your food, as well as the agency's address and tax I.D. number for proper reporting on your tax-filing forms. The Food Drive Coordinator at your local post office should be able to give you the name of the receiving agency, and that agency will likely have tax information handy.

For more information, visit: [nalc.org](http://nalc.org).

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

*Submitted by Andi Howard-Rein*

On Sunday, June 3, 2018, the Centennial Village Group will host its 8th 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, New Jersey, and looping through Centennial Village and Mohawk Park. This family-friendly race invites all ages to come out and enjoy the views of Centennial Village. Strollers are allowed and encouraged, as there will be a prize for best decorated Cranford spirited stroller.

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 and under, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, and 70 and older. Runners will automatically be entered in raffles for prizes from local businesses. Post-race snacks will be provided by a toute heure restaurant, and Massages by Carrin Fernandes will be giving massages during the entire event.

Last year's race saw over 100 runners from Cranford and surrounding towns. Participants in the family-friendly race ranged from elementary school students, to parents with strollers, and senior citizens. Residents along the route came

out to support and cheer on the runners. 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](http://racenj.com). Pre-registration is open through May 19, 2018. It costs \$25 for adults, \$15 for youth aged 18 and under, (plus service fee) 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 information about the Centennial Village and the group, visit [facebook.com/CentennialVillageGroup](https://facebook.com/CentennialVillageGroup).



(above) CVG Velocity 5K 2017.

Photo by Kal Seth Photography



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# MEET CAPTAIN NEWELL RODNEY FISKE, CRANFORD'S FIRST DEATH IN BATTLE ONE OF CRANFORD'S 86

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

As the team committed to tell the stories of Cranford's 86 war heroes who gave their lives for our freedom, we think about these young men throughout the year. For many of us, Memorial Day focuses our thoughts on the sacrifices these young men made. I hope the ten stories we have told this year have caused others to reflect on those to whom we owe so much. This year when you hear the names read at Memorial Park you will see the faces and know the stories of these brave young men who have allowed us to live the wonderful life paid for with their sacrifice.

Reading the many biographies of the Cranford 86, I often came to the overstuffed file of Captain Newell Rodney Fiske as I went through the selection process to pick our hero of the month. Knowing the 100th anniversary of his death was coming up this year, we purposely waited to tell this amazing story. At the time of his death, he was said to be the finest young man to come from Cranford. He still may be.

With my partner Steve Glazer and a large folder from the Cranford Historical Society marked "Newell R. Fiske," the window to life in the early 1900's in Cranford began to open. Each month as we open a hero's file and dig into the internet's research portals, we uncover the details

of the lives of our greatest citizens. I find myself empathizing with the family and friends of our hero; my own emotions take hold as I type each word. This month would be no exception.

The only son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Fiske, a prominent family from Brooklyn, they summered in West Hampton on Long Island, still today the summer playground for New York's society elites. The Fiske and Dean (Mrs. Fiske's maiden name) families were often mentioned in the society pages. It was in West Hampton on August 11, 1894, that Newell was born. The family moved to Cranford when he was 3 years old, first to 8 Hampton St., then to 116 Eastman St., before settling at 301 Prospect Ave. Our research found that the homes in this upscale neighborhood were built just after the turn of the century. Newell started his educational path in Cranford public schools before entering Pingry in Elizabeth, then attending Cheshire School, an elite boarding school in Connecticut for grades 9 through 11. For senior year, Newell attended Lawrenceville Academy, another prestigious boarding school 40 miles south of Cranford. Newell then enrolled at Princeton University as a member of the class of 1918. However, after such a prestigious education, he left the Ivy League in his freshman year to "take up war work" in 1914.

Enrolling the following year at the Citizen Military Training Camp (CMTC) in Plattsburgh, NY, Newell began his preparation for a military career. The CMTCs were often attended by the sons of wealthy businessmen and political power brokers. Tuition was expensive and no public funds were available. Graduates of this inaugural class of CMTC went on to such careers as the youngest mayor of New York City, an Episcopal bishop, a US secretary of state, a founder of a major Wall Street trading firm, and a leading Manhattan lawyer. While there, Fiske became friends with Quentin and Archie Roosevelt, the two youngest sons of President Theodore Roosevelt. They had lived at the White House during their father's presidency. Archie became the tent-mate of Newell, a fellow Ivy Leaguer. The three friends would later go off to war.

As a well-trained civilian in soldierly skills, Newell split his time between Washington, DC,

where he studied war subjects, and Cranford, where he organized and drilled the Cranford Home Guard, which later became the Cranford company of the State Militia Reserve. While in town, Fiske would speak at school assemblies and at the Cranford's "moving picture theater," talking about the CMTC as well as the Liberty Loan program, the beginning of the war bond movement. America was anticipating its entry into the war then raging in Europe.

In January 1917, Newell took the test for a Regular Army second lieutenant at Fort Myer in Virginia. And on April 6, 1917, Congress finally entered the Great War, with the US joining France, Russia and Great Britain as the Allied forces against Germany. Exactly two months later, Newell received his officer's commission, along with orders to report to Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. There on August 5, he was promoted to first lieutenant and assigned to the US Seventh Infantry. On February 1, 1918, Lieutenant Fiske was selected to travel to Aurora, Ill, for training in cryptology, the science of decoding secret messages, after which he was sent to Charlotte, NC, where he was promoted to captain on March 22, 1918.

On March 28 at 5:30 p.m., Captain Fiske came through Cranford while traveling with his regiment to Camp Merritt in Cresskill, NJ, the gateway to the European theater for many American soldiers. Of the four million soldiers deployed to Europe during the war, one million went through Camp Merritt. From there they would take ferry boats down the Hudson River to Hoboken, where they boarded transatlantic ships to the Western Front. On April 6, 1918 -- the first anniversary of the nation's entry into the First World War -- Captain Fiske sailed from Hoboken to the battlefields of France on the USS America.

In his last letter from "over there" to his parents on May 30, Fiske reported that he was doing considerable travelling and that he was in command of a company in his regiment. It was assumed he had arrived at the front.

Fiske's first fighting was at the Marne River at the Battle of Chateau Thierry. The battle lasted four months, from June 3 to October 10. It was said to be the turning point of the war. The



(above) USS America 1916.



(above) Ferry boat's transfer WWI soldiers from Ft. Merritt to Hoboken to board The USS America in route to the European theater.



(above) Cartoon depicting the turning point battle of WWI



(above) Civilian Military Training Camps in Plattsburgh NY.

## NEWELL RODNEY FISKE (continued)

Germans were having their way pushing the French and British forces back daily since June 3. They were marching toward Paris, just 50 miles away. A victory for the Germans would have most likely won them the war. The Russians had already pulled out due to their own revolution at home. France was experiencing low morale, with its citizens vehemently protesting the war. The British were outnumbered and fatigued from being beaten into retreat every day. The Germans were aware that the US was entering the war and were anxious to deal a decisive blow to the Allied forces before the fresh troops arrived.

In the late days of June a steady flow of young, recently trained, untested American soldiers started arriving in the area around the Marne. By the first week, 270,000 soldiers were in place. The entire war was about to change. One oft-repeated story was of a French commander discussing a retreat order to the Allied forces. An American Marine commander responded, "Retreat? We just got here!" From that point it is said that the Allies changed from a defensive stance to an all-out offensive posture, launching six assaults "over the top," altering the tide of battle. The Germans were forced to retreat. In one wave alone, 15,000 German prisoners were taken.

The Second Battle of the Marne, from July 15 to August 6, was the true turning point of the war. The Allied forces, now being commanded by an American general, John "Black Jack" Pershing, numbered 1.2 million. It was at the beginning of this engagement that Captain Newell Rodney Fiske was killed as he led his troops in a counterattack through intense artillery fire, inspiring his men by his gallant conduct. It was the success of this battle that set up two months of dominance by the Allied forces. One month after the conclusion of the Battle of Chateau Thierry, the Germans surrendered and the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918. "The War to End All Wars" was over. In total, some 10 million men under arms were killed in the war. According to one report, 116,708 Americans perished. Fifteen were from Cranford.

Reports after the fight say that on July 15, 1918, Captain Fiske met his end, the first American officer to die in the battle. Just one day earlier, his CMTC friend Quentin Roosevelt died in the skies over France in aerial combat. Newell was one month shy of his 24th birthday. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for bravery in action. It was presented to his grieving father.

The August 1, 1918, Cranford Chronicle reported that a telegram had been received on July 26 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fiske notifying them that their son was dead. Accounts of Cranford's first battle death spread through town. Expressions of grief and sympathy were soon pouring into the Fiske home. Flags were flown at half-mast for two days following the arrival of the mournful news.



*(above) Young Newell as he entered the Army as a 2nd Lieutenant.*

It was said that Newell Fiske was better known than any other Cranford boy. Always of a venturesome nature, he was prominent in everything he undertook. "The name of young Fiske is now numbered among the immortals," said Dr. George Greene upon hearing of his death. The First Presbyterian Church pastor said in his eulogy that the captain "gave the last full measure of his devotion to his country- dying as one might well wish to die- and we bow reverently to the will of God, with pride that our community has had so brave a son, for I doubt if there is a braver heart within the bosom of any one of a million and more of our boys who are facing the German line than was his. His love of country was intense and sincere, and his courage was superb."

In his honor, the family set up the Fiske Scholarship at Princeton University. And his father was instrumental in founding the Cranford V.F.W., which proudly bears the name Captain Newell Rodney Fiske Post # 335. It was dedicated with a ceremony honoring Captain Fiske on March 30, 1920. Cranford's Fiske Terrace was also named in his honor.

Surviving family members were his father Harvey N. Fiske, mother Florence Dean Fiske and sister Marion Dean Fiske Miller. Captain Newell Rodney Fiske is buried in France at Oise-Aisne American Cemetery. He was a great American and one of Cranford's 86.

This concludes our first year of stories of the Cranford 86 hometown heroes. It is planned to honor each profiled hero with a banner to fly over the streets of Cranford. They will be dedicated at this year's Memorial Day service following the parade. The stories that have been featured all year in Cranford Monthly will be available at the ceremony in a booklet for a nominal charge to cover printing costs.



*(above) Newell R Fiske's formal portrait after being promoted to Captain*



*(above, l-r) Fiske Terrace dedicated to the memory of Captain Fiske and Captain Fiske's final resting place in Oise-Aisne American Cemetery in France.*

# CRANFORD'S 11TH ANNUAL RELAY FOR LIFE 2018 - MAY 18TH

*Submitted by Linda Miklencic*

The planning committee is looking for cancer survivors and caregivers to register for Cranford's 11th Annual Relay for Life on May 18, 2018 at Orange Avenue School, Cranford, New Jersey. Our survivors are the celebration part of the night! They start the Relay by taking the first lap and then their caregivers join for another special lap.

Over 600 participants registered last year and we raised almost \$90,000! The proceeds fund cancer research, including 47 Nobel Prize winners, and provide services, such as wigs, transportation, and lodging, to local cancer patients.

In the survivor tent, we host a dinner before the opening ceremony and provide the survivors with a t-shirt, medal and goodie bag.

Please contact Linda Miklencic, Event Lead at [miklencic@verizon.net](mailto:miklencic@verizon.net) if you or someone you know is interested.

You can register at [main.acsevents.org](http://main.acsevents.org)



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# POLICE OFFICERS TO BE HONORED VALOR AWARD LUNCHEON, MAY 11TH

Submitted by The 200 Club of Union County

The Two Hundred Club of Union County has announced that seventeen police officers and firefighters, including two members of the Cranford Police Department, have been selected for this year's Annual Valor Awards Luncheon to be held on Friday, May 11, 2018.

Held at Shackamaxon Country Club in Scotch Plains the recipients will receive the prestigious Two Hundred Club Medal of Valor for actions above and beyond the call of duty. The 200 Club, a non-profit organization founded in 1968, is comprised of 400 business leaders from Union County, NJ, who's core mission is to provide financially for the widows and dependents of Police Officers and Firefighters who are killed in the line of duty. We have grown in mission to now also provide continuing education grants for police officers and firefighters, and a competitive scholarship program for the deserving children of our uniformed protectors in Union County. More information on our organization can be found at [www.uc200club.org](http://www.uc200club.org).

The keynote speaker will be Patricia Ann Norris-McDonald, Mayor of Village of Malverne. Mrs. McDonald is the widow of

Steven McDonald, a NYPD officer who was left quadriplegic in 1986 following a shooting in the line of duty. Steven McDonald died age 59 on January 10, 2017. She had been married to Steven for less than year when the shooting took place. At the time the newlywed was pregnant with the couple's only child. Six months after the shooting she gave birth to a son, Conor McDonald. Mrs. McDonald co-authored the book, The Steven McDonald Story, with her husband NYPD Detective Steven McDonald and appeared often with him to speak about faith and forgiveness.

Cranford Police Department Detective Thomas Stiansen and Officer Gregory Federici will be honored for the following incident.

On May 3, 2017 at approximately 7:40 p.m., the Cranford Police Department responded to an active fire at the Birchwood Avenue Nursing Facility in Cranford. While en route to the scene, officers were advised that multiple bedridden patients were trapped in the room where the fire had originated. Upon arrival, by quick observation of the exterior of the building, Detective Stiansen and Officer Gregory Federici

were able to clearly identify which room was actively engulfed with smoke and flames.

As they were approaching the outdoor windows of the room, they could hear the occupants inside screaming for help. Detective Stiansen and Officer Federici were able to break a window using a lawn chair, enter the room which was engulfed with flames and a heavy smoke condition, and ultimately evacuate two residents through the window. Once the residents were turned over to additional fire and EMS personnel, they returned to the building and continued with the evacuation efforts of additional residents.

Once the scene was under control and in command of the Cranford Fire Department, both Detective Stiansen and Officer Federici were transported to St. Barnabas Medical Center where they were treated for smoke inhalation.

If it was not for Detective Stiansen and Officer Federici's exemplary and heroic efforts during the scene of a fire at a local nursing home, it seems certain that the two rescued victims would not have survived. We recognize them for their heroic efforts and valor.

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# 'TASTE AND SEE' ART AUCTION & SALE BENEFITS RAPHAEL'S LIFE HOUSE

Submitted by Denise McDermott

The 2nd Annual "Taste and See" Art Auction & Sale to benefit Raphael's Life House, will be held on May 10, 2018, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., at Simply Art & Framing, 11 North Union Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey

Join us for an evening of art and appetizers in support of a great cause. Over 50 original artworks from 20 metropolitan area artists will be up for auction including modern, traditional, water colors, prints, wool, photography and more! During the event local restaurateurs will be providing delicious hor d'oeuvres and beverages.

Additionally, Martin Jewelers, located at 12 North Avenue West, Cranford, and a longtime supporter of Raphael's Life House, will donate two distinctive silver necklaces for silent auction. Simply Art & Framing will also donate 20 percent of their store sales during the event to Raphael's.

Raphael's Life House, founded by Cranford resident Edith Coogan and former resident, Mary Orrico, is Covenant House New Jersey's Mother Child program, created to provide non-sectarian housing to homeless and pregnant young women

and their babies when born, for up to one year. The goal is to assist the women in establishing an independent living situation for themselves and their babies. The women in the program are ages 18 to 23, alcohol and drug free, mentally and physically capable of caring for themselves and their baby, and willing to obey the house rules while either working or attending school. Raphael's Life House shelters 12 women at a time; each mother shares quarters with her baby in a safe and homey environment.

Staff and talented volunteers provide classes to assist moms with prenatal care, parenting skills, building esteem, job seeking, educational and vocational opportunities and other critical life skills. Volunteers also participate as baby-sitters, host community monthly dinners, coordinate baby showers and fundraising events, and much more. Founded in 1993, Raphael's has provided transitional housing and support for over 700 young mothers and their babies. Learn more at [raphaelslifehouse.org](http://raphaelslifehouse.org).

Entry tickets for the art auction and sale are \$15.00 in advance and \$20.00 at the door. Space is limited and advance ticket order is recommended.

For tickets and info contact Christine: 908-451-7633 or [Cmcmullan2969@gmail.com](mailto:Cmcmullan2969@gmail.com). Tickets also available at Simply.

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# SUNNY ACRES ASSOCIATION RECEIVES CRANFORD PRESERVATION AWARD

*Submitted by Maureen Strazdon*

The Cranford Preservation Award was recently presented to the Sunny Acres Civic and Improvement Association. The Award ceremony, sponsored jointly by the Cranford Historical Society and the Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB), was held at the Hanson House and was attended by residents of Sunny Acres, and members of HPAB and the Historical Society.

Christine Glazer, Trustee and Program Chair of the Cranford Historical Society, welcomed attendees and mentioned that she had grown up

in Sunny Acres. She then introduced Maureen Strazdon, Chair of HPAB, who gave a short history of Sunny Acres and presented the Award to Carole Esposito, President of the Sunny Acres Civic and Improvement Association.

Ms. Strazdon mentioned that Sunny Acres was the first such housing development that was entirely planned and executed by Sears Roebuck, that it represented the largest planned development of single-family homes in Cranford the first half of the twentieth century, and that it was the first development in Cranford that made 30-year mortgages available to potential home owners, making home ownership an option for working and middle class families.

Sunny Acres is in the southern section of Cranford, and includes Mohawk and Algonquin Drives; Oneida, Mohican, and Iroquois Places, and Iroquois, Cherokee, and Raritan Roads. Developed between 1940 and 1943 by Sears, it is a community of 172 Cape-Cod and Colonial Revival style houses. Twelve numbered models of the basic house were offered, but by placing the main body of the house at different angles to the street and moving the garage around, different looks were achieved. Significantly, 134 or about 78 percent have retained most of their original design.

In accepting the Award, Ms. Esposito said that the Association has been an advocate for and historian of Sunny Acres since its inception in June 1941, as well as a source of social action and community activity. Social activities in the past

and present include fielding children's and adult sports teams, dances, and social outings, and perhaps most notably, the annual baby parade

At the end of the presentation Ms. Strazdon announced that HPAB has initiated the process to have Sunny Acres designated as a Cranford Historic District. Letters are being sent to all residents describing the designation, and there will be a public meeting on May 30, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center to hear comments. A proposal supporting the nomination is available at the Municipal Building.

Being designated as a local Historic District will recognize Sunny Acres as a significant community in the history, and the social and economic development of our town. Designation does not prevent owners from making any changes to their properties.

Founded in 1927, the Cranford Historical Society is a private organization whose mission is to preserve and perpetuate the history of Cranford. For more information, visit [cranfordhistoricalsociety.com](http://cranfordhistoricalsociety.com).

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



(above) Carole Esposito (left), President of the Sunny Acres Civic and Improvement Association, accepts the Preservation Award from Maureen Strazdon, Chair of the Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board.

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## COLLEGE WOMEN'S CLUB MAY 2018 MEETING

Submitted by Theresa Sowa

The May meeting of the College Women's Club of Cranford will be held on Monday, May 14, 2018 at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church on Springfield Avenue in Cranford, New Jersey. The Garden State in Bloom will be the topic of the May meeting presentation by Walter Choroszewski, New Jersey photographer. He has published 18 photographic books and has been a leading advocate of New Jersey Pride since 1980 when he was commissioned to photograph the state for a book project, New Jersey: A Scenic Discovery which launched his photographic career and link to the Garden State.

During this presentation Mr. Choroszewski will revisit the beautiful public gardens of New Jersey pictured in his award-winning book, The Garden State in Bloom. This program showcases Walter's 25 favorite public gardens

with colorful photography and historical information about each garden. Choroszewski's photographs were the inspiration for creating the iconic state tourism campaign: "New Jersey & You: Perfect Together!" Walter was the primary photographer of the campaign through the '80s and '90s and was awarded the first New Jersey Photo Journalism Award by Governor Thomas Kean in 1989.

In addition to state tourism, Choroszewski's photographs of New Jersey are widely published in calendars, magazines, and textbooks. His fine art prints and murals of New Jersey are found in corporations, hospitals and in many private collections.

The evening will begin with refreshments at 7 p.m. followed by the meeting and Mr. Choroszewski's program. The meeting is open to the public.

## WOMAN'S CLUB ANNUAL SIP & SHOP - MAY 11

Submitted by Ashley Fiume

Join the Cranford Woman's Club for our annual Sip & Shop in Downtown Cranford on May 11, 2018, from 6 to 9 p.m. Shop exclusive sales at several downtown merchants while sipping wine and snacking along the way. The first 100 people to purchase tickets get a fantastic "Sip & Shop" tote bag filled with tons of goodies. Discounts available at all participating stores exclusively for Sip & Shop attendees. After the event, several local

establishments will have happy hour pricing for attendees.

Tickets are \$20.00 in advance or \$25 at the door.

Tickets available online at [cwc-sipandshop.eventbrite.com](http://cwc-sipandshop.eventbrite.com) and in stores at Augusta Mae, Periwinkles Fine Gifts, Milk Money, and The Amber Feather!

All proceeds go to Cranford Woman's Club scholarships and philanthropic fund.

## FREE MOVIE NIGHT AT HANSON PARK MAY 19

Bring your blankets and chairs and join us for a Movie in the Park on Saturday, May 19th at Hanson Park, 38 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey. The feature presentation will be "Coco," a 2017 animated fantasy film produced by Pixar Animation Studios and released by Walt Disney Pictures. The story follows a 12-year-old boy named Miguel Rivera who is accidentally transported to the land of the dead, where he seeks the help of his deceased musician great-great-grandfather to return him to his family among the living. The film won two Academy Awards for Best Animated Feature and Best Original Song ("Remember Me").

This free family movie night is part of Cranford Family Weekend and will start at dusk (approx. 8 p.m.). There will be popcorn and refreshments for sale and fun for the entire family! The rain date is Saturday, June 2. "Movie in the Park" is presented by the Hanson Park Conservancy and Friends of the Cranford Public Library. For more information please visit [hansonparkconservancy.com](http://hansonparkconservancy.com).

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# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CRANFORD HOSTS OVER 60 HOMELESS GUESTS FOR 4TH OPERATION WARM HEART SEASON

Submitted by Catherine Felegi

The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford (FPCC), 11 Springfield Avenue, New Jersey, in partnership with The Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless and a variety of other host churches in the Union county area, has helped a total of 60 guests stay in from the cold every Tuesday from Dec 2017 to March 2018 from through the emergency winter sheltering program, Operation Warm Heart. Operation Warm Heart FPCC Chapter is one of the ecumenical missions that the FPCC runs in order to help alleviate homelessness in the Union county area.

"The broad reach and personal impact of this program, due to all the dedicated volunteers that practically come out of the woodwork, is really astounding," states Catherine Felegi, Operation Warm Heart FPCC Chapter coordinator. "I tell everyone every year that we've hosted since 2014 that really, it's the volunteers who are doing all the work and making a difference, reaching out, and quite literally saving lives by keeping people off the streets during the harshest times; the winter months."

Guests suffering from homelessness who arrive at the church can find a host of different services available for them, including hot dinners homemade by volunteers, haircuts from local barber shop and salon owners, laundry facilities, showers, sewing repairs, a pop-up shop to accept donated clothing, and a listening ear. The goal of the FPCC Chapter is simple. Make everyone feel welcomed and help them forget about the streets for a night. Volunteers make efforts to celebrate holidays with gifts and decorations, bring in birthday cakes, and have even provided musical entertainment through professional singing and piano playing on multiple occasions.


Felegi states, "People who come to our location actually call us their hotel, or their

vacation spot, where they can either choose to get things done that they need to, or they can turn in for the night and relax after a hard day. I want the guests leaving here to feel accepted, loved, and to know that they are always welcomed, and we support them and their efforts to try and get off of the streets and into stable housing."

Though homelessness went down by 4.6 percent since 2015 as of the 2017 New Jersey Point-In-Time Count, there is still work to be done to completely eliminate homelessness for the 8532 individuals still on the streets. And with the gap between rents and income growing, the issues of homelessness and poverty promise to be a prominent issue in the future if not faced now and handled immediately by both lawmakers and the greater community who are empowered to fight for the have-nots.

The FPCC Chapter started after Felegi read an article about a Bridgeton man who died after being found in a clothing donations bin, trying to keep warm. Felegi worked to set into motion a sheltering program in partnership with her church and various volunteers and was advised to seek council with The Elizabeth Coalition, that had been running Operation Warm Heart since 1996. The FPCC Chapter of the program has since received numerous awards for its efforts to alleviate homelessness and poverty, including the upcoming Union County Human Relations Commission 2018 Unity Award for Achievement by the Clergy, to be granted May 7, 2018 in partnership with Skip Winters, who runs the FISH Hospitality program through the church, and Janice Grevious, who runs the annual MLK Day of Service.

For more information, including how to donate and volunteer for the 2018 to 2019 hosting, contact FPCC Coordinator Catherine Felegi at 908-578-8500, or email her at Catherine.Felegi@gmail.com.



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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.

The Cranford Public Library will be running quite a few family programs this spring. Admission is free and all Cranford residents are welcome. For a list of other upcoming programs, visit the library Web page at [CranfordLibrary.org](http://CranfordLibrary.org).

## Story Time Yoga

Join us for this very special story time, led by Lisa Ferraro

**Monday mornings at 10:15, running until May 21.**

The program mixes poses, games, storytelling, art, and music to teach children to release the sillies and find the calm. We'll be using props like balls, scarves, pinwheels, and pom-poms to build strength, flexibility, and self-confidence through play. This free program is for children ages 2 to 5. Tickets will be distributed in the Children's Department the morning of the program.

## Paws to Read

Some furry friends will be lending us a floppy ear! Emerging readers are invited to hone their reading skills by reading to certified Therapy Dogs. Participants reserve a 10-minute spot

**from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 8**

Registration is required and can be done two weeks before each event.

## Sensory Library Time

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, we will hold two sessions of a small group program.

Jodi Goldberg will be leading art workshops

**Friday, May 11.**

Tickets for small group programs will be given out on a first come, first served basis beginning at 6 p.m. on the day of the program. This free program is sponsored by a grant from the Union County Freeholders.

## Lego Club

Children in grades 1 through 6 are invited to join us as we free-build and share our work with our friends on

**May 15 at 6:30 p.m.**

Bookmark Contest Design a bookmark using the Summer Reading theme of "Libraries Rock." Seven winners will be selected, and their designs will be printed and distributed at the library and in the schools.

The contest will run from May 1 to 25, visit the Children's Department desk for more information or to enter the contest!

## STEM Story Time

Join us for an enriching story time followed by guided STEM-based play! Come play and learn on

**Thursday, May 24 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.

## Music and Movement Story Time

Children ages 3 months to 2 years of age and a caregiver are invited to join us for a short, lively story time full of songs and plenty of movement. This educational story time engages children in essential early literacy practices. Join us on

**Wednesday, May 23 at 10:15 a.m.**

Registration is not required, but we ask that participants arrive on time as we may be unable to accommodate newcomers.

## Family M.E.S.S.

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

the award winning early literacy program, returns on **Saturday, May 19 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.



## CRANFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS

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## MAY EVENTS

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

Downtown Cranford - Car Registration: 5:00 p.m.

Music - Hula Hoop Contests - Awards & More

Come and enjoy an evening in Downtown Cranford

## Kilkenny House - Fundraiser

**May 14th - Monday - 11:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.**

112 South Avenue E., Cranford, N.J.

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Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund.

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## Cranford Connections over Coffee

**May 17th - Thursday - 8:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m.**

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## Kick Glass Art Studio

**May 23th - Wednesday - 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

536 South Avenue E., Cranford, N.J.

Come join us for a creative evening.

Included is an instructional class which each person will leave with a bowl they created.

\$40 which includes wine, cheese and all material needed to complete your project. Seating limited

RSVP: [cranford.com/chamber](http://cranford.com/chamber) or call 908 272 6114 for all events.

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# NAMI SUPPORT GROUP FOR CAREGIVERS OF LOVED ONES WITH MENTAL ILLNESS MAY 15

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Union County is hosting a support group for caregivers of loved ones who have a mental health diagnosis. Join our peer led monthly group meetings and gain insight from others facing similar challenges.

The next meeting is May 15, 2018, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey. For more info call 908-233-1628 or email [namiunioncounty@yahoo.com](mailto:namiunioncounty@yahoo.com)

## TUFF PADDLE CRANFORD RACE JUNE 2

*Submitted by Kent Lucas*

The first ever Cranford Tuff Paddle event will be held on June 2, 2018. It will be a two-person team race consisting of a combination of paddling a canoe on the Rahway River, a couple of short runs and a portage with canoe across land. Starting at 9 a.m. in Hampton Park, going to Nomahegan Park, then ending at the Canoe Club, the race should take most teams 1 to 1.5 hours. A post-race party is included in registration.

The event is sponsored by Cranford Community Connection in conjunction with Cranford Township and the Cranford Canoe Club.

The idea of Township Commission member Ann Dooley, the intent is to have a fun event which will feature the beauty of the Rahway River.

For information or to register, see our Facebook Page, Tuff Paddle Cranford.

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## SR. JACINTA AND SR. EDIE MOVE ON FROM ST. JOSEPH'S AFTER 30 YEARS

Sr. Jacinta Fernandes and Sr. Edie Cheney stepped down from their full-time work at the St. Joseph Social Service Center, Elizabeth, New Jersey in July of 2017. They led the center, working together for more than 30 years. Sr. Jacinta recently moved to Lutherville, Maryland to join her Benedictine Community. Edie is a Sister of Christian Charity and has yet to decide where her next ministry will be. The many volunteers of St. Joseph's, who come from all over Union County and beyond, continue to partner with the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless as sister agencies, to serve the poor and homeless of the Elizabeth area.

Since 1983, St. Joseph's has served the poor and homeless community of the greater Elizabeth area by providing basic human needs like 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 ministry to people in need dates back to 1968, when the American Friends Service Committee began a housing assistance program in Elizabeth. Sr. Jacinta was on staff and became one of the founders of St. Joseph's. She and other Sisters distributed food and clothing from Sacred Heart Convent. These programs then gave birth to CUE (Coalition for a United Elizabeth), from which came the Elizabeth Coalition House to the Homeless.

In 1983, Sacred Heart merged with Our Lady of Fatima Church. The food and clothing programs were formalized and became Our Lady of Fatima Social Service Center, with Sister Jacinta as the director. Edie Cheney assisted her part time, while also pursuing her studies in family therapy. Both the Coalition and the Social Service Center were housed at Our Lady of Fatima Convent, the former Sacred Heart Convent.

On February 10, 1986, Our Lady of Fatima

Social Service Center and the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless relocated to the former St. Joseph's Church at 118 Division Street, Elizabeth. This location provided more space for the growing number of clients. Our Lady of Fatima Social Service Center then became St. Joseph Social Service Center with Sister Jacinta and Edie as its leadership team. Services were expanded to include a soup kitchen, job program, counseling services, and a medical clinic, which evolved into a prescription assistance program. In addition to housing advocacy, the Coalition added on a children's program and three transitional houses.

Bernadette Murphy is now the Director; and Annette Calderin is taking on Sr. Edie's responsibilities in counseling and leadership.

Sr. Jacinta and Edie were honored and celebrated on March 5, 2018 at the annual St. Joseph's Feast Celebration. People wished them well and original songs were performed. An emotional and impromptu testimonial was delivered by a man who visited the center to share his personal experience of how the center helped his family when he was very young, and his mother needed assistance. He credited the Center for his stability and for creating an environment for this mother to thrive. He is now a productive person with a family of his own.

### EASTER DONATION

Rich and Amy Wischusen organized an Easter Egg dying party at their home to prepare a donation for St. Joseph's for their Easter celebration. Cranford neighbors were asked to bring 15 dozen hard boiled eggs to be colored. A total of 105 dozen eggs were decorated and boxed for delivery. The group also put together 28 Easter baskets filled with candy, chocolate, toys and games. The eggs and baskets were assembled in the evening on Good Friday and delivered the following morning to an appreciative staff at St. Joseph's.

### 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.

St. Joseph's is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. If you're interested in joining St. Joseph's team of volunteers, email: [volunteer@sjeliz.org](mailto:volunteer@sjeliz.org) or to send a donation, visit: [sjeliz.org/donate.html](http://sjeliz.org/donate.html)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: SJELIZ.ORG

Well wishes can be sent to Sr. Jacinta and Edie in care of St. Joseph's at: 118 Division Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201-2736; or via email [info@sjeliz.org](mailto:info@sjeliz.org).



(above) Cranford residents Rich and Amy Wischusen delivered 1,260 colored Easter Eggs to St. Joseph Social Service Center staff to be distributed at the soup kitchen over the Easter weekend.



(above, l-r) Edie Chaney; Sr. Jacinta Fernandes; Board of Trustees president and Cranford resident Harold Kessler; and his wife, also a trustee, Sharon Kessler.

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# beyond DANCE

## SUMMER CAMPS



### PRINCESS PARADE

July 9th - July 13th / 9:00am - 12:00pm

Have a royal time with all your favorite Disney princesses! Enjoy story-telling, dress up, and dancing along with everyone's favorite princesses you know and love!

AGES 3 - 8

Cost: \$250

### DISNEY ADVENTURES

June 25th - June 29th / 9:00am - 12:00pm

Take a magical journey through music and dance with the Disney classics and your favorite characters. have your camper hang with mickey and the gang!

AGES 3 - 8

Cost: \$250

### Hip Hop Fun-damentals

July 16th - July 20th / 9:00am - 12:00pm

Styles include popping, locking, breaking and of course lots of free-styling! great class for all levels to get introduced to the wide range of urban movement styles.

AGES 4 - 7

Cost: \$250

### Commercial Hip Hop

July 30th - August 3rd / 9:00am - 12:00pm

This one week of training in basic hip hop fundamentals, technique, and performance will include a dance video shoot on set with costumes and make up on the last day!

AGES 7 & UP

Cost: \$250

*\*Please bring your own snack and drink each day*

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