

CRANFORD MONTHLY_{NJ}

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HOLIDAY FUN WITH SEUSSICAL AT CDC DECEMBER 7-16



CDC Theatre in Cranford is offering a great way to jump into a fun holiday season! Seussical is a fantastical and magical musical adventure that is fun for the whole family! The show follows many of our favorite Dr. Seuss characters, including Horton the Elephant, The Cat in the Hat, Gertrude McFuzz, and a little boy with a big imagination – Jojo, in the musical retelling of their respective Dr. Seuss fables. The colorful characters transport the audience from the Jungle of Nool to the tiny but effervescent world of the Whos.

The Cat in the Hat (Lyle Dungee) narrates the story of Horton (Zach Love), an elephant who discovers a speck of dust inhabited by the Whos, including Jojo (Garrett Hanlon), a Who child sent off to military school for thinking too many "thinks", and his very concerned parents Mr. Mayor (Justin Luckenbaugh) and Mrs. Mayor (Nicole Scavone). Horton faces a double challenge: not only must he protect the Whos from a world of naysayers and dangers, but he must guard an abandoned egg, left in his care by the free-spirited Mayzie La Bird (Krystina Matos). Although Horton faces ridicule, danger, kidnapping and a trial, the intrepid Gertrude McFuzz (Jenna Ravenda) never loses faith in him, and through the power of friendship, loyalty, courage, family and community these two unique worlds emerge triumphant from their trials and tribulations.

Director Zach Mazouat explains that "Just like its source material, at a first glance, Seussical appears to be a lighthearted children's musical, but at the heart of each of the show's many storylines is a meaningful lesson about friendship, courage, self-acceptance and the power of the singular voice. It's a show that both children and adults will enjoy. A true testament to the enduring power of Dr. Seuss and his fables." Also at the helm of this production are music director Tracy Witko, choreographer Melanie Della Peruti, stage manager Dana Dispoto, and producer Anita Esteve.

Rounding out the very talented cast are Rachel Valovcin, Elle Michaeli, Brian Butterfield, Jaimie Woodruff, Melanie Cella, Alison Giles, Michele Greenspan, Jonathan Sykes, Ryan Sautner, Tyler Sautner, Aaron Shinn, Alexandra Banncroft, Edgar Hidalgo, Sean Kelly, Olivia Kelly, Mark Zebro, Joseph Michaeli, Bridget Webb, Lorelle Lane, Marisa Piccininni, Billy Mehr, Hannah Martin, Joann Riley, Danielle Mastropiero, Nicole D'Angelo and Geovanna Ayala (as Cindy Lou Who).

The show will run Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from December 7-16. Additional information and tickets can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org. Shop on-line for best price and selection.

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COLLEGE WOMEN'S CLUB HONORS NICK PERROTTI OF PERROTTI'S QUALITY MEATS

Submitted by Jacqueline Catanzaro

Nick Perrotti of Perrotti's Quality Meats, at the corner of S. Union Ave. and Cherry St. in Cranford, was instrumental in selling over a 1,000 dollars in Coloring Books for the College Women's Club of Cranford Scholarship Program. He not only allowed the Coloring Books to be prominently displayed, but went out of his way to encourage patrons to purchase the books. We are grateful and honored for his help.

If you don't know, Perrotti's has been a part of the Cranford Community for over 50 years. Over time, the store has evolved from being an old world Butcher Shop, to now also offering countless homemade prepared specialties and deli items. They pride themselves for being a family owned and operated business that treats

customers like part of the family. The sons of David Perrotti, Dave Jr. and Nick Perrotti, have earned the responsibility of taking over the family business with an eye towards keeping Perrotti's a part of the community for the next 50 years. We wish them well and thank them for their contributions to the community as well as the College Women's Club of Cranford. Thank you Nick!

All Cranford women, who are graduates of a four year college or university, are invited to join the club. Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month. For more information about becoming a member, call Janet Collins at 908-653-1452. There will be no meeting in the month of December.



(above) Nick Perrotti of Perrotti's Quality Meats helped in selling over a 1,000 dollars in Coloring Books for the College Women's Club of Cranford Scholarship Program.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FUNDRAISING FOR NICARAGUA AND LOCAL MISSION

Recently members of the Service and Mission Team of the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford graciously accepted a check for \$3,500 from First Presbyterian Church member Lynne Fitzpatrick and members of her team from the Guillotine Salon and Spa in Westfield, NJ.

Lynne, owner of the Guillotine, recently held a fundraiser which raised \$3,500 to assist homeless programs and the Cranford Elmora

Soup Kitchen. These organizations have been supported by First Presbyterian of Cranford for 30 years. During the same event, funds were raised to support social justice programs and organizations that assist women and children, especially those who are victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. Lynne and her team have also sponsored scholarships and equipment for those looking to become hair stylists in Nicaragua.

Carols, Children and Christmas by Candlelight
at First Presbyterian Church of Cranford

Dec 9, 5pm: Service of Healing and Hope
Dec 23, 10am: "A Ceremony of Lessons and Carols" performed by the Chancel Choir
Dec 24, 4pm: Children's Christmas Pageant "Christmas Special Delivery"
Dec 24, 8pm: Traditional Family Worship with Candlelight
Dec 24, 11pm: Candlelight Service with Holy Communion
Dec 31, 10:30pm: Labyrinth Walk

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(above) The Rev. Brooks Smith, retired pastor of the Watchung Ave Presbyterian church in North Plainfield and leader of the annual delegation to Nicaragua, accepts the donation from owner Lynne Fitzpatrick and her staff of the Guillotine Salon and Spa. During the past 8 years, Lynne and her team have raised over \$25,000 for mission programs.

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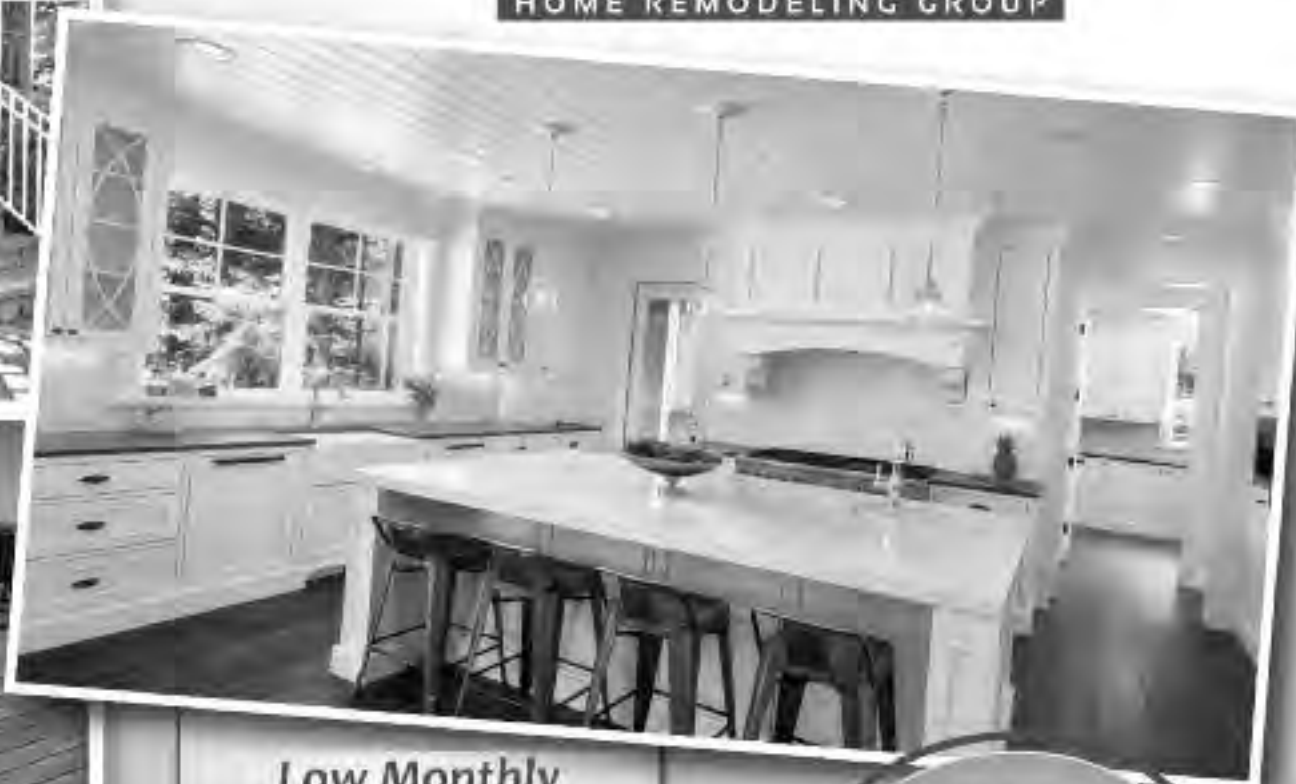


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WINTER DANCE SHOWCASE AT CRANFORD HIGH SCHOOL, DEC. 6

Dancers from The Cranford High School Dance Academy and Dance Club will be performing Thursday, December 6th at 7:30 p.m. in the Cranford High School Auditorium. This annual event is free and open to the public. It is an opportunity to showcase pieces performed and choreographed by students, from freshmen to seniors, as well as choreography by Alexis Veglia, cooperating teacher from the Mason

Gross School at Rutgers University.

The Dance Academy at CHS is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. Since 2008, it has been a creative outlet, a tight-knit community, and a source of inspiration for students serious about pursuing their passion for dance as a part of their high school experience.

The program has been further enhanced by the Alessandra LoConte Memorial Fund, a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, created to honor Alessandra LoConte CHS '11, who was diagnosed with Ewings sarcoma while in college and passed away in 2015. Since its inception in 2016, the Fund has supported master classes with guest artists, field trips, costuming needs, and a community scholarship for college-bound seniors involved in the performing arts. Tenth Anniversary T-shirts and CHS Dance Academy T-shirts which benefit the Fund will be on sale at the Dec. 6th Showcase. Or to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Alessandra LoConte Memorial Fund, please visit: gofundme.com/AlessandraFund



Photo by Cranford High School

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"GWYLLYN" OF OUTLANDER JOINS PIPES OF CHRISTMAS



Attention Outlander fans: STARZ Series' OUTLANDER bard, "Gwyllyn" aka Gillebride MacMillan, has just been added to the 2018 production of the PIPES OF CHRISTMAS with performances in NYC and Summit, NJ.

Tickets still remaining for the 2PM concert on Saturday, Dec. 15 in NYC and the 7PM concert on Sunday, Dec. 16 at Central Presbyterian Church in Summit, NJ.

Get tickets via www.smarttix.com or by calling (212) 868-5444.

MacMillan will be signing copies of his new CD, "Freumhan Falaichte" (Hidden Roots) after the 7PM performance in Summit, NJ.



Growing in God's Grace together.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPE AND SOUP FESTIVAL DEC. 8TH

at Cranford United Methodist Church



The Cranford United Methodist Church will host its 8th annual **Christmas Holiday Shoppe and Soup Fest** on Saturday, December 8, 2018, 10am – 3 pm. This is a family-friendly event where kids and adults alike can do their holiday shopping.

Over 45 vendors will offer a large variety of merchandise, crafts and gifts. There is sure to be something for everyone in the **Christmas Shoppe and Soup Fest!**

Five fabulous homemade soups will be available as part of the event and re-packaged soups (quarts & pints) for take-out will also be available until supplies last. Come early – these soups sell out quickly!

Baked goods and lunch will be available for purchase, too. So, skip the mall, the crowds and the hassles and join us for a great day of unique shopping!

The event will take place in the church's education building at 201 Lincoln Avenue, corner of Walnut and Lincoln Avenues, Cranford. Admission is free. There is plenty of free parking.

For information, please call Marti at (908) 276-0936 or send a message to office@cranfordumc.com. Website: cranfordumc.com

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(above, l-r) Cranford Girl Scouts Katelyn Shaw, Brianna Littler, Jane Howlett, and Leila Cader created gift baskets for adoptees and their new families to be distributed at the National Adoption Day Ceremony at the Union County Courthouse. The girls collected donations of toys, games, snacks and household items. They are working towards earning the prestigious Girl Scout Silver Award and this community service is part of the process.

CRANFORD GIRL SCOUT TROOP 40332 STEPS UP FOR FOSTER KIDS' ADOPTIONS

As 28 youth gathered at the Union County Family Courthouse in Elizabeth recently to celebrate their adoption and exit from foster care, another group of youth — four Cadettes from Cranford's Girl Scout Troop 40332 — were ready and waiting.

After discussing ways to get involved with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County and its mission to advocate for the best interests of children placed in foster care through no fault of their own, a Girl Scout collaboration was hatched: The girls — some of whom were working toward a Silver Award — would blanket Cranford's schools, churches and community center with fliers seeking donations of board games, card games and jars of popcorn kernels — lots of popcorn kernels. All the items would help make up "Family Fun Night Makes Memories" gift baskets for each new family.

National Adoption Day raises awareness of children in foster care awaiting adoption. Since its inception 19 years ago, approximately 60,000 children have left foster care for forever families. More than 100,000 nationally, however, still await a permanent home; the average wait is four years. Unfortunately, more than 20,000 will age out alone.

The weekend before Union County's celebration of National Adoption Day, when judges, staffers, family and friends would gather to celebrate a new chapter for local children and teens placed in foster care due to abuse, neglect or abandonment, the troopmates gathered at the Cranford home of co-leader Susan Shaw, whose

daughter Katelyn had selected CASA of Union County and foster youth as the focus of her Silver Award efforts.

They were joined by Cranford's Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan, Development and Communications Manager at CASA, who brought donations from the larger community. The group, which also included troop co-leader Maryanne Mason, sorted, assembled, wrapped and creatively labeled each gift basket. The girls spent hours poring over the adoptees' ages and genders, and selecting what they hoped each would enjoy most.

The morning of Adoption Day, despite snow delaying the start for classmates at Orange Avenue School, the girls left home earlier than usual to help set up at the courthouse. From children as young as two to teens as old as 19, the scouts greeted each and presented the baskets, specially selected books by Kappa Alpha Theta's Westfield Chapter and certificates for bikes and helmets courtesy of the Albanese Family of Plainfield's Dairy Queen.

Of the 28 adoptees present, 11 youth had CASA volunteers assigned to their cases to advocate for their needs while in foster care: Clark's Bob Vogel, five youth; Westfield's Barbara Bagger, three youth; and Springfield's Isabella Blumberg, three youth, and invited by the family to join the closed finalization hearing.

For details on CASA of Union County and ways to get involved, contact Courtney at cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org or 908-293-8136, or log on to www.casaoofunioncounty.org.

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SMILES ABOUND FOR 28 YOUTH AT UNION COUNTY ADOPTION DAY

It was quite a day at the Union County Family Courthouse, as 28 youth gathered to celebrate their adoptions and an end to foster care. The morning of Friday, Nov. 16, 2018, Union County's observation of the national awareness day held each year the Saturday before Thanksgiving, 16 children entered courtrooms as foster youth but exited as part of a forever family. In addition, 12 others adopted in recent months returned to celebrate.

National Adoption Day raises awareness of children in foster care awaiting adoption. Since its inception 19 years ago, approximately 60,000 children have left foster care and entered forever families. In the United States, more than 100,000 such youth need a permanent home, and the average wait time for each is nearly four years. Unfortunately, more than 20,000 age out without a permanent home or family.

In addition to adoption hearings officiated by Superior Court Judges Richard C. Wischusen and Judge Alan Lesnewich, festivities included guest speakers, entertainment, gifts for the children and families, and well-wishes from all. All adoptions ended with teddy bears for all, plucked from their perch on the judges' bench.

After the adoption finalizations, families were greeted by CASA of Union County staff and Cranford Girl Scout Troop 40332 Cadettes who rallied their community to donate games and popcorn for "Family Fun Night Makes Memories" baskets. In addition, each child received specially selected books donated by Kappa Alpha Theta's Westfield Chapter and each child will receive a bike and helmet, courtesy of the Albanese Family of Plainfield's Dairy Queen.

Prior to the formal program — which included comments from Union County's Assignment

Judge Karen M. Cassidy and Family Presiding Judge Lisa F. Chrystal, as well as two teen adoptees — families enjoyed personalized cupcakes, books from Union Catholic high-schoolers, coats from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, elaborate balloon hats sponsored by A Birthday Wish Foundation, and the appearance of Heroes4Heroes, a Union County corrections officers organization whose members don superhero costumes and brighten the faces of all. In addition, Elizabeth's Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy. A Cappella Choir performed "This is Me" from The Greatest Showman — the conclusion of which left no dry eye.

Eleven adoptees had CASA volunteers advocating for their needs: Clark's Bob Vogel, five youth; Westfield's Barbara Bagger, three youth; and Springfield's Isabella Blumberg, invited by the family to join the closed hearing as their three adoptions were finalized.

For details on CASA of Union County and ways to get involved, contact Courtney at cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org or 908-293-8136, or log on to www.casaoofunioncounty.org.



(above) Judges Alan Lesnewich and Richard Wischusen celebrate with the Arias family after the adoption proceeding that they presided over. The event was extraordinary in that it kept six siblings intact as one family. Both judges worked with the family during the years the children were in the court system. It was a monumental, emotional and joyous event for all involved in the child welfare system.



(above, l-r) Cranford resident and Family Court Judge Richard Wischusen welcomes his wife Amy, Cranford Girls Scouts and scout leaders into his court to witness an extraordinary adoption in which a couple adopted six siblings in an effort to keep them together. It was an emotional and joyous event for all involved in the child welfare system.

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THREE CRANFORD GIRL SCOUT TROOPS EARN BRONZE AWARDS

Submitted by Kerry Rokicki

The Girl Scouts of Cranford (Service Unit 48) celebrated the efforts of Girl Scout Cadette Troops 40035, 40051, and 41796 during the 2018 Bronze Award ceremony held recently.

The Bronze Award is the third highest award bestowed by Girl Scouts of the USA. It was introduced by GSUSA in 2001, and can only be earned by Girl Scouts at the Junior level for aiding in the resolution of a community issue. Each of the Girl Scout troops completed their own project.

Cadette Girl Scout Troop 40035 helped bring awareness to the issues of hunger and food scarcity by volunteering at the Cranford Elmora Soup Kitchen and with Mobile Meals of Westfield. After much research, the troop shared what they had learned in their local neighborhoods and collected canned goods to donate to those in need.

"As troop leaders, we are very proud of the girls for their dedication to earning their Bronze Award," said Megan Quigley, co-advisor of Cadette Troop 40035. "For this project they

volunteered at soup kitchens, delivered meals, and helped out at Cranford Family Care. They also researched budget-friendly and healthy meals, learned about government food assistance programs and the food struggles in communities near and far."

Cadette Girl Scout Troop 40051 decided they wanted to address unhealthy eating habits. They began by researching the concept of the "Healthy Plate" and learning about food groups. Their individual research was supplemented by several meetings with a nutritionist from the Garwood ShopRite. Each Girl Scout then developed her own healthy snack and made it into a recipe that would be easy for children ages 7-12 to understand. The collection was then compiled into a children's recipe book. For the final piece of the project, the Cadette Girl Scouts met with a Brownie Troop to play food group games, discuss the idea of a Healthy Plate, and prepare one of the healthy snack recipes. The Brownies left the meeting with important information about healthy eating, their very own cookbook, and a healthy plate magnet.

"We are so proud of how the girls took ownership over the learning and then teaching about healthy eating in a fun, child-friendly way," said Lisa Malecki, co-advisor of Cadette Troop 40051.

Cadette Troop 41796 completed their Bronze Award on the topic of pet safety. They created "New Pet Parent" brochures and care packages designed to help new owners properly care for their pets. They also designed a "Lunch and Learn" program and presented it to students at Livingston Avenue School to share the importance of keeping pets safe and tips for achieving that goal.

The Girl Scouts of Cranford is an organization dedicated to building G.I.R.L.'s (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)TM of courage, confidence, and character who will make the world a better place. The Girl Scouts of Cranford Service Unit 48 is a part of the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey Council which is part of the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.

For more information on the Girl Scouts of Cranford, go to cranfordgirlscouts.com.



(above) Three Cranford Girl Scout Troops were celebrated at the 2018 Bronze Award Ceremony for their community service projects.

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GIRL SCOUT TROOP 40534 RE-MAPS BIKEWAYS FOR SILVER PROJECT

Submitted by Anne-Marie McGuinness

Girl Scouts of Cranford Troop 40534 has recently completed a Silver award project. The Silver Award is the second highest award in Girl Scouting. To complete the award, three girls from Troop 40534 worked together on a project to improve their community. The girls decided to focus their project on Cranford's bikeways.

Upon investigation, the girls discovered that Cranford's old bikeways map was in fact illegible. That is because the map was made from an architectural drawing, resulting in the street names being too small and difficult, or often impossible, to read. As such, the girls wondered how helpful the old map was to the township's residents, or to the numerous "through bikers" who ride the East Coast Greenway, which passes directly through town from north to south.

With the support of Lt. Davenport and the

Cranford Police Department's Traffic Bureau, the bikeways project team remapped the Cranford Bikeways using a program called Scribble Maps. The new Bikeways of Cranford map is web based and interactive, allowing users of the map to zoom in and out and easily read street names. The girls also pinned information on Cranford's parks to the map as well, including information on the available amenities at each park (such as parking and bathroom facilities, playground equipment, special features, etc.).

In addition to mapping the Cranford Bikeways, the bikeways project team also rode the bikeways, documenting needed improvements and reporting those issues back to Lt. Davenport. This varied from discovering large potholes and cracks in the pavement, to debris in the bikeways, to missing bikeways signs or, in a couple of instances, bikeways signs

facing in the wrong direction.

In late April the girls also set up a booth at the Cranford Street Fair to get the word out about their project. Finally, they created a website with important information relating to bike safety and the benefits of bicycling to a person's health and wellbeing.

Now that their Silver project is complete, the girls hope their fellow Cranford residents, neighbors and friends find that riding the Cranford bikeways and utilizing Cranford parks is both easier and much more enjoyable now. They hope the new bikeways map will encourage more Cranford residents to use the Cranford bikeways.

Township residents can find links to the Bikeways of Cranford map and website on the Township of Cranford website under Departments / Police Department / Traffic Bureau.

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(above, l-r) Ariadne Mahadeo, Elaina Michetti and Tess Hagstrom, Girl Scouts of Cranford Troop 40534, completed their Silver award project to remap the Cranford Bikeways.

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MEET KEITH JEFFRIES, U.S. NAVY COXSWAIN AND CRANFORD 86 HERO IN COMMEMORATION OF NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

By Stu Rosenthal and Don Sweeney

We are a small team of amateur historians, executing on a voluntary goal to profile fallen Cranford service members, but we are often challenged by limited facts and a scarcity of firsthand accounts. Each month, a new story emerges about our subject based on a shallow pool of local historical records. Yet, as we mine for new information and interview family members, a door swings open, and we are often surprised by the introduction of new details or the recovery of an old image. What gradually unfolds is the splendid character of a brave young man who typically volunteered for military service, but whose life abruptly ended from war.

It continues to amaze us how many Cranford men have been at the center of many historic or fierce military actions, or traversed engineering marvels that helped advance U.S. strategy. Previous Cranford 86 stories were sometimes prioritized because of the anniversary of a historic event, or one of our local hero's link to a noteworthy commemoration. This month, as we recall the devastating attack on Pearl Harbor, we believe it is fitting to recount the life of U.S. Navy Coxswain Keith Jeffries, among those lost aboard the USS Arizona during the surprise Japanese strike on Dec 7, 1941. Although Keith did not grow up in Cranford, similar to other Cranford 86 heroes, the creation of Keith Jeffries Avenue soon after the war cemented his enduring link to Cranford.

Keith Jeffries was born on March 29, 1918 in Alden Station, Pennsylvania, and was among nine children born to James and Helen Jeffries. As a youth, Keith was an active Boy Scout and sports enthusiast. He attended Newport Township High School, PA, and was a star forward on their basketball team, winning the 1936 state championship soon after his mother died. Keith was a solid hitter on the inaugural school baseball team, served as secretary-treasurer of his class and performed in the senior class play. Following graduation, Keith joined Standard Oil in Aruba, where his older brother John worked as their Safety Director, and another brother James Jr. had also worked.

Keith left Aruba in July 1938, and likely arrived in Cranford as John took up residence here following a transfer to the nearby Bayway Refinery. Keith found work in Plainfield as a motor mechanic, and lived at 30 Dunham Ave in Cranford with John's family, and a younger sister, Hazel, who had just arrived from PA. Keith's then-5-year-old niece, Jane (Jeffries) Rosenthal, recalled Uncle Keith, or "Pete-ee," living with them in Cranford. We found Jane, now 85, residing in Missouri near her daughter, Susan. Jane remembered when Keith enlisted in the Navy, and also recalled asking him "why would you want to do that?"

In Sep 1939, following the outbreak of war in Europe, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed U.S. neutrality, yet authorized a rapid increase in U.S. Naval units and personnel. By Dec 12, 1939, Keith departed Cranford, and arrived for recruit training in Newport, RI. On



Coxswain Keith Jeffries, U.S. Navy.

March 1, 1940, Apprentice Seaman Keith Jeffries reported to the USS Arizona, moored in San Diego, CA, which was receiving an influx of new seamen.

When construction of the USS Arizona (No. 39) commenced in Brooklyn, NY, in 1914, the ceremony was attended, ironically, by the future U.S. President Roosevelt, then the Assistant Secretary of the Navy. The modern battleship was fitted with four main gun batteries, or turrets, each comprising three 45-caliber guns with a range exceeding ten miles. Each shell was the size of a fire hydrant, and weighed nearly 1000 pounds. The Arizona was the first U.S. Navy battleship fueled by oil, but remained stateside during World War I because oil was in short supply. During the 1920s and 1930s, she was mostly used for crew and fleet training. However, in 1931, the Arizona hosted U.S. President Herbert Hoover for a brief visit to the Caribbean. In 1934, she was also featured in the Jimmy Cagney film, *Here Comes the Navy*.

In April 1940, shortly after Keith reported, the Arizona and the entire Pacific Fleet were transferred from California to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, then a U.S. territory. This was intended to deter Japan from further expansion into East Asia, following its recent invasion and seizure of parts of China.

The job of a new seaman aboard the Arizona involved laborious deck duty. Keith's first job likely involved chipping paint, swabbing, polishing brass or holystoning, to illuminate the teakwood by scrubbing it with bricks and water. Below deck, Keith may have washed blankets or aired out mattresses, ridding them of lice. After promotion, a seaman such as Keith could have expected a three-month mess assignment, involving long hours setting up for three meals a



Keith Jeffries' basketball team won the Pennsylvania state title in 1936, his final year of high school.



(lef) Keith Jeffries Avenue is among 13 streets named in memory of fallen Cranford service members.



A rank insignia patch similar to what Coxswain Keith Jeffries would have worn on his right arm.

day, hauling ingredients, preparing food, serving sailors and cleaning the galley.

In July 1940, the Arizona accompanied other ships to the South Pacific, in a show of force, which included crossing the equator near Jarvis Island. Celebrated by generations of sailors, it triggered a lighthearted induction ceremony for so-called 'Polywogs' who had never sailed across the middle of the earth's surface. It was officiated by officers dressed as King Neptune, a mythological god of the sea, and his court, some dressed in drag. The veteran 'Shellbacks' would dunk the Polywogs in a makeshift pool erected on the deck, and hurry them through a cloth tunnel littered with raw potatoes, before dousing them with firehoses. We can only speculate that Keith Jeffries may have played a Polywog during this carefree performance at sea.

In Sep. 1940, the Arizona returned to the U.S. for exercises in Long Beach, CA, before proceeding to Puget Sound Navy Yard near Tacoma, WA, for upgrades. Preparations for war had accelerated, as President Roosevelt placed an embargo on raw materials bound for Japan, which had invaded French Indochina and allied with Germany and Italy. During its overhaul, the Arizona's anti-aircraft guns were upgraded and she was fitted with radar. Anything deemed

COXSWAIN KEITH JEFFRIES (continued)

nonessential to battle was stripped from the ship, including radios which sailors used for personal listening. The Arizona returned to Pearl Harbor in early 1941, and resumed intensive training. The ominous year would include minor collisions with the USS Davis and USS Oklahoma.

During his time aboard, Keith Jeffries was promoted three times, culminating in the rank of Coxswain ('Cox-sin'). Keith's rank indicates he may have been responsible for support vessels, involving tasks such as towing returning seaplanes to the ship, ferrying sailors to shore and fetching supplies for the ship.

Following its last training exercise on Dec. 4th, the Arizona was moored at Pearl Harbor, with several other ships, along so-called Battleship Row. On Dec. 6th, she was filled with approximately 1.5 million gallons of oil fuel, in preparation for an upcoming trip to the mainland. The next day, at 7:55 am, the air raid sounded and the men were ordered to battle stations. Several Japanese bombers were overhead, scoring direct hits on the Arizona. The final bomb struck at 8:06 am, and likely penetrated the armored deck, reaching the ammunition stockpile of the ship. Within seconds, the ammunition detonated, triggering a catastrophic explosion. The forward turrets collapsed, the interior structure lay gutted and the splintered ship was lifted out of the water. The resulting fireball burned for two days. However, not all of the oil burned, and seventy-seven years later, the wreckage continues to ooze several quarts of oil each day.

Sometime before the attack, Keith communicated with his family, informing them

he was in good health, and that the Navy was treating him well. Coxswain Keith Jeffries, 23, is believed to have died while manning a gun on the forward deck of the Arizona. His father learned of his death shortly before Christmas. His niece, Jane, recalled hearing about the attack while listening to the radio with her family in Cranford. As a tribute to his younger brother, John Jeffries would volunteer for the Navy in Dec 1942. This puzzled his family, and not because John was already 40 years old, but because he could not swim, as Jane recently joked with us.

Keith Jeffries' body was never recovered, and he is enshrined at the site of the devastation which became a national memorial. After the war, a new American Legion Post near Keith's childhood home in PA was co-named in his memory. In all, 1177 men aboard the Arizona were killed, or nearly half of the 2403 deaths on the 'Day of Infamy' which prompted the U.S. to enter the war. Among the 335 survivors aboard the Arizona, only five men remain alive today, according to the USSArizona.org. Dozens of surviving crew members who have since died were interred in the sunken Arizona, their ashes set in the well at the base of Turret no. 4.

Our research revealed many survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack who would settle in Cranford after the war. Lawrence "Skip" Flanagan was a fireman aboard the USS Helena, spent a career in the Navy and became commander of Cranford VFW Post 335. Stephen Dmytriw was an aviator in the Army Air Corps, and later spent thirty years with the Cranford Police Reserves. Navy pilot Joseph Panetta was on standby, and fled his plane just ten minutes before it was struck on the

runway. As an Army medic, Charles Weber treated the wounded at Pearl Harbor. Theodore Samuels was in the Army, and later an active member of Cranford Elks Lodge 2006. David Thompson and John William Keller Jr. served in the Army Air Corps and Navy, respectively, and became Masons at Cranford's Azure Lodge 129. Henry Meyer served in the Army during World War I, before serving as an Officer in the Navy during World War II, including Pearl Harbor.

Keith Jeffries was an American hero, and the first Cranford 86 Hometown Hero lost among its fifty-seven fatalities during World War II. He would have been one hundred years old in 2018. For even more history and video clips visit our website cranford86.org.

For additional profiles or to purchase volume one of Cranford 86 Hometown heroes booklet, please visit us at Cranford86.org, email us at info@Cranford86.org or call (908) 272-0876.



The USS Arizona was 'the biggest and most powerful battleship, both defensively and offensively,' said Franklin D. Roosevelt. Commissioned in 1916, the battleship measured 608 feet in length and 97 feet wide but was never used in WWI due to the oil shortage in Europe. The Pearl Harbor attack was her first and only enemy encounter.



The foredeck of the USS Arizona, where Keith Jeffries was reportedly manning an anti-aircraft gun when he was killed 12/7/1941. The ship sustained a final blow near the big-gun turrets, and likely triggered a destructive explosion below deck in the main ammunition storage room.



The USS Arizona, following two days of fire caused by the Pearl Harbor attack. The structures above the waterline were eventually removed and either scrapped or reused. The explosion was so strong that it somehow extinguished the fires of the neighboring ships.



The USS Arizona Memorial, at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Hawaii. The bridge straddles, but does not touch the sunken hull, which rests 40 feet below the water surface. It is the final resting place of 1177 U.S. heroes. Each year, 1.8 million visitors pay respect, most in complete silence.



The USS Arizona was equipped with twelve 14-inch guns, capable of hurling half-ton shells over 10 miles.



Keith Jeffries' name is engraved in the USS Arizona Memorial Wall, alongside 1176 crew members who perished.

CRANFORD DAR VOLUNTEER AT VET'S CENTER

Submitted by Mary Leonard

The Volunteer Service to Veterans Committee of the Crane's Ford chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution visited hospitalized veterans at the VA Lyons Medical Center in Bernard Township on November 10, 2018. With donations of gift cards from Costco, ShopRite, Stop & Shop and Wegmans, the DAR was able to purchase snacks and drinks for the veterans.

DAR Veteran Committee chairwoman Alice Birtwistle of Bayonne and Chapter Regent Mary Leonard of Roselle Park planned and organized the afternoon. The following daughters of a

member joined in helping the DAR: Rachel Birtwistle, Jessica Birtwistle, and Miranda Birtwistle. The Crane's Ford DAR has been volunteering with annual parties for the VA Lyons facility veterans for over 40 years.

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a national service organization of women who can prove ancestry back to participants of the American Revolution War, both in combat and those who provided goods and services to the American cause. Prospective members may visit the website dar.org to learn more.



(above l-r) Bonnie Cierkowski, Rachel Birtwistle, Patty Campanelli, Miranda Birtwistle, Jessica Birtwistle, Alice Birtwistle, Mary Leonard, Karen Faulks and Diane Recinos.



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GIRL SCOUT EARN SILVER AWARD WITH DONATION OF OXYGEN MASK KITS FOR PETS

CRANFORD MONTHLY • Page 15 • December 2018

Submitted by Kerry Rokicki

Four reusable pet oxygen mask kits were donated to the Cranford Fire Department by the cadettes of Girl Scout Troop 42870. The masks will be kept onboard the fire department's first responder vehicles to help Cranford's pet community in the event of an emergency.

"The Cranford Fire Department is most appreciative of the work and support that Girl Scouts Caroline Willis and Sofia Pollack put forward in their project," said Lt. Matthew Lubin. "Their generous donation of the pet oxygen kits greatly expands our ability to care for our residents' pets during emergencies. Our residents consider their pets as family, and we can better care for exposure to smoke or carbon monoxide with these tools. The four high-quality oxygen kits have been placed on all of our frontline apparatus."

As a result of this effort, as well as more than 50 hours of related service, Girls Scouts Heart of New Jersey has awarded Girl Scout Cadettes Sofia Pollack and Caroline Willis the Girl Scout Silver Award, the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette may earn. The Silver Award represents a girl's accomplishments as a leader in her community and reflects a girl who is organized, determined, and dedicated to making a positive impact in the world.

The Girl Scouts of Cranford is an organization dedicated to building G.I.R.L.'s (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)TM of courage, confidence, and character who will make the world a better place. The Girl Scouts of Cranford Service Unit 48 is a part of the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey Council which is part of the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. For more information on the Girl Scouts of Cranford, go to cranfordgirlscouts.com



(above l-r) Lieutenant Matthew J. Lubin, Caroline Willis, Sofia Pollack and Chief Daniel J. Czeh with the reusable pet oxygen mask kits.

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JAMIE MILLER

Jamie is currently serving his second term as President of the Cranford Rotary. He chairs weekly and monthly meetings and participates in many service projects, such as Project Dictionary, the N.J. Food Bank, and he actively promotes their annual golf outing. He has also been a member of the Cranford Jaycees for many years, and has served as their President. He currently is an Associate on the Board. Jamie has been a member of the Cranford Area Chamber of Commerce, served on their Executive Committee as Secretary and chair of the scholarship committee. He is a Meals on Wheels volunteer, has been very active in many Cranford organizations and was a former Cranford Hockey Club coach. Jamie is an active philanthropist, supporting and contributing to many fundraising events that happen in Cranford. He is the Managing Director at Garretson Financial in Kenilworth, NJ and resides in Cranford with his wife Anne Marie and their three children.

*Photos from this and other events
can be found online at rennamedia.com
and on Cranford Monthly page on
[facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)
Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."*

The Cranford Area Chamber of Commerce held the Pride in Cranford awards dinner on November 7, 2018. As in prior years, the nominations for those receiving the awards were sent in by the residents of Cranford and are divided into two categories: Individuals and Organizations, who through their volunteerism have made Cranford a better community.

For the individual category this year the recipients were Jason Quinones, Sue & Kent Lucas, Jamie Miller, and Jay Boxwell. The organization receiving the award was the

Cranford Knights of Columbus #6226. These individuals and organization were recognized for their many hours of volunteering.

In the Community Development Award category, the recipients were Marmay Holdings and Track 5 Coffee House. These recipients have built or remodeled their commercial property consistent with Cranford's guidelines.

The President's Award was presented to Maryana Kaplan owner of CEC Research on Commerce Drive, Cranford for her outstanding service and dedication to the Chamber.



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SUE & KENT LUCAS

Sue and Kent were nominated because they are hard-working, dedicated, compassionate and professional people. As members of the Cranford First Aid Squad they have made a big difference in our community. After Hurricane Irene they helped to rebuild the squad building, which everyone thought was impossible. Even though Kent is a full-time Electronic Engineer, he got his NJ Paramedic license to help prepare the new generations in town that are interested in the medical field. Since 2013 they have both been teaching classes every month, not only for members of the squad, but largely to outside groups such as the Scout Troops, business employees, companies, and other medical professionals to get certified or re-certified on CPR and other sessions of health treatment awareness. Kent and Sue combined have responded to over 900 medical calls during their 9 years at CFAS. They have helped shape the minds and characters of thousands of young people during their years on the squad.



JAY BOXWELL

Jay has worked very hard to make the veterans of Cranford more active and involved with our community. Jay began the annual Flag Retirement Ceremony, which brought together all the Scout troops in town, Cranford Police Color Guard, Fire Department Color Guard and the VFW Color Guard. He was instrumental in recognizing Policemen, Firemen and EMT workers with an annual awards ceremony. During Jay's tenure as Commander, the Post Color Guard has gone from just performing annually at the Memorial Day Parade, to appearing at events almost monthly, and was named as the Color Guard for the State Commander at last year's annual Convention in Wildwood. This is a very prestigious title and brings great honor to our VFW Post. Under Jay's tenure, Cranford Post #335 was named one of the top 26 VFW Posts in the nation. Jay is a Navy veteran and has been named an All State Commander twice, an All American Commander, a National Aide De Camp three times and is currently in his second year as District Commander of Union County. Jay lives in Cranford with his wife Sharon and their two daughters.



JASON QUINONES

Jason has served as President of the Cranford Soccer Club, which serves over 1,000 children annually, and has been active with the Board of the Cranford Soccer Club for approximately 10 years, having served as Executive Vice President and Registrar. Jason was instrumental in the new turf field project at the Memorial Complex, working with the township committee and the Cranford Board of Education to complete this project. The Cranford Soccer Club contributed \$400,000 towards completing this project. Jason is a Vice President at Connell Finance, and he and his wife Carole have four children.

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TIFFANI SERAFIN'S PROGRESS CLOTHING RESALE NOW OPEN IN NEW WESTFIELD LOCATION



(above) Tiffani Serafin, a Cranford resident, is the new owner of Progress Clothing Resale, now in a new Westfield location. The store features a total 50's retro vibe! Buying and selling styles from the 1920's to today!

Progress Clothing Resale
THRIFT SHOP
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Tiffani Serafin, Owner

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www.progressclothingresale.com
1100 South Ave. W. Westfield, NJ

Cranford High School class of 2008 Tiffani Serafin is the new owner of Progress Clothing Resale, formally located in Garwood, New Jersey. The store is now located at 1100 South Avenue W., Westfield and features a total 50's retro vibe, buying and selling styles from the 1920's to today.

After visiting the store in Garwood Tiffani fell in love with it and applied for a job and was accepted. She purchased the business one and a half years later and decided to move it to Westfield. She recalls "The relocation came from the passion and drive to begin an exciting, new

journey as the new owner. As we made the big move, our new home was completely gutted and under construction. It was most definitely a work in "progress," with the renovation taking 8 weeks. However, this gave me all the opportunity in the world to design my shop, top to bottom. With a blank canvas at my fingertips, I was simply in heaven. I've always been told that I was born in the wrong era. With that being said, my vision was to create a shop with a 50's, retro vibe. I have now been in business for 6 months and it has been nothing short of an amazing and beautiful experience."

ANNUAL WINTER CONCERT WITH CHS

The Cranford High School Performing Arts Department will present its annual Winter Concert on Thursday, December 20, 2018 at 7:30 p.m., in the Cranford High School auditorium.

Featured ensembles include the Cranford High School Orchestra, Women's Chorus, Men's Chorus, Unaccompanied Minors A Cappella Ensemble, Madrigal Choir, and Concert Choir.

All Cranford High School choir alumni are invited to join in the traditional singing of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" in the concert's finale.

Please note that the Cranford Public Schools Permitted Items Policy will be in effect for the Winter Concert performance on December 20. No bags or purses will be allowed into the auditorium. For more information about Cranford High School Performing Arts and a calendar of events, visit cranfordmusic.org.

Photo by Cranford High School



(above) Members of the Cranford High School Concert Choir rehearse for their upcoming Winter Concert on Thursday, December 20.

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SILVER CARD DINNER HONORS PBA MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORTER

Submitted by Tom Bell

On Thursday, October 25, 2018 members of Cranford PBA Local #52 gathered with friends and family at the Cranford Social banquet hall on East South Ave. to recognize and honor their own members as well as one special supporter from within the community. The 2018 Silver Card Dinner was hosted by Local #52 in conjunction

with the Cranford Honorary PBA. This year marked the first combined event held jointly with the newly resurrected Honorary PBA Civic Association.

The Honorary PBA, restarted in large part by the efforts of retired Local #52 member and past State Delegate Paul Cymbaluk, is made up of retired Cranford Local #52 members along with

business leaders and community members who actively support the goals and the good and welfare of all active Local #52 members and their families. The event was well attended by active and retired members, as well as many Honorary PBA members and past recipients of honorary silver life cards. The night was MC'd by current President Thomas Bell and past President Joseph Stulpin.

PBA members Steven Wilde, John Swandrak, Derek Farbanec, Christopher Difabio, Nelson Hearn, Robert Jordan, Brian Trotter, Jason D'Agostino, Shayne Temple, Gregory Federici, Michael O'Neil and James Knight were recognized by the Local for jobs that went above and beyond the normal call of duty.

Also recognized by the Local was Mr. Richard Guempel. Richard is the CEO of Eii Electrical Corp in Cranford. Mr. Guempel was awarded an "Honorary Silver Life" membership card for his unwavering support of Cranford Local #52 and the NJSPBA. Mr. Guempel, a Holmdel resident, along with his business partner (and honorary Silver Life Card holder from Elizabeth Local #4) John, have made significant impacts to the local's ability to fund many of its service projects and good and welfare events. From supporting our Golf Outings, the Police Unity Tour, equipment funding and the general well being of the membership, Mr. Guempel was deemed most deserving of an "Honorary" Silver Life Membership card. Local #52 has been aggressively raising funds this past year for two local youths battling cancer who are near and dear to the membership. With Guempel and Eii's support, Local #52 has been able to meet many of its goals. This partnership has had a direct positive impact on the families of both boys.

Because of the partnership between the Local and the Honorary Civic Association, this year's event also raised funds that will assist the membership in funding numerous other charitable causes as well as continuing to fund the overall good and welfare of the members and families of Cranford Local #52.



(above) Past PBA president Joseph Stulpin, honorary silver life member Richard Guempel and current president Thomas Bell.

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8TH ANNUAL DUCKY RACE AT HANSON PARK

Submitted by Linda Livelli

The 2018 Hanson Park Conservancy Cranford Ducky Race went swimmingly for the 8th year in a row.

The rapids at Sperry Park were running fast on October 14, 2018 and the ducks were thrilled to be in the water again.

The crowd of over 1,000 Cranford residents came to watch the blue, yellow and pink ducks sprint to the finish line under the North Union Avenue bridge. The parents and children cheered on both sides of the river as the canoes dumped the ducks to see what colored duck would be the winner this year.

Hanson Park Conservancy has presented the Rubber Ducky Race as a fundraiser for educational programs for all ages at the park. In addition, proceeds from the race benefit the ongoing maintenance and restoration of Hanson Park.

Race and Sponsor winners are listed on Hanson Park's Website at hansonparkconservancy.com.



Photo Credit: William C. King



BLOOMINGDALE SCHOOL AND ORANGE AVENUE SCHOOL FALL 5K AND FUN RUN

Submitted by Patricia MacLean

When dawn broke on November 4th, 2018, volunteers scurried around Bloomingdale Avenue School, setting up tables and setting out treats in preparation for the hundreds of runners who were going to cross the finish line of the Bloomingdale Avenue School and Orange Avenue School Fall 5K and Fun Run.

Now in its 7th year, the 5K and Fun Run serve as the largest fundraiser for both the BAS and OAS PTAs. The money raised is used to provide valuable programs and activities for teachers and students alike.

The one-mile Fun Run provided a great opportunity for children and parents to run together or, in some cases, race each other to the finish line.

Showcasing a brand new 5K course, the fall colors were in full effect as runners wound around both schools and into the leafy residential neighborhoods nearby. Children brandished newly-made signs cheering on their parents to the finish line, supporting each other and their schools all at the same time.



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CARING CONTACT TRAINS CRANFORD LIBRARY STAFF IN MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Submitted by Mary Claire Givelber

On October 12 and 19, 2018 the Cranford Public Library closed its doors from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. to train its staff in Mental Health First Aid. The Library partnered with Caring Contact to conduct the training. Public libraries are “open spaces” where all individuals are welcome, including those in distress.

Michael Maziekien, the Director of the Cranford Public Library, saw Mental Health First Aid as an opportunity to enrich the skill set of the staff. “Members of the library staff are highly trained, compassionate, caring and respectful individuals. They work with people with widely diverse abilities and backgrounds. This training was an opportunity for all members of the staff to enhance their skills at work and in their daily lives.”

Just as CPR helps you assist an individual having a heart attack, Mental Health First Aid helps you assist someone experiencing a mental health or substance use-related crisis. During the eight-hour course individuals learn risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and where to turn for help. Mental Health First Aid takes the fear and hesitation out of starting conversations about mental health and substance

use problems by improving understanding and providing an action plan that teaches people to safely and responsibly identify and address a potential mental illness or substance use disorder. All participants receive a nationally recognized three-year certification in Mental Health First Aid.

Staff members at the library found the training invaluable. “This training has opened my eyes about how lives can actually be saved and that there is a light at the end of the tunnel,” states Charlotte Darynai.

Mary Catherine Sudiak felt that the training “provided me with insights into understanding mental health situations that are prevalent in the community.”

Funding for this training was provided by the Cranford Public Library, LibraryLinkNJ and donations from Garretson Financial and the Cranford Rotary Club. Caring Contact is an award-winning, volunteer-staffed caring and crisis hotline providing active listening support and best-in-class education to the Central and Northern New Jersey community. Caring Contact is affiliated with CONTACT USA, a member agency of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the American Association of Suicidology. If you are in crisis and need someone to listen, call 908-232-2880. To learn more about the educational opportunities and volunteer opportunities at Caring Contact, visit caringcontact.org.

LIBRARY EVENTS

Chess Club

The Cranford Public Library will be running our Chess Club for teens every second and fourth Tuesday through December at 4:30 p.m.

The future dates for the meetings are:
October 9 & 23, November 6 & 20,
December 4 & 18.

Experienced and learning players are welcome.

Game On!

The Cranford Public Library will be running Game On! for teens every first and third Wednesday through December at 5 p.m.

The future dates for the meetings are:
October 3 & 17, November 7 & 21,
December 5 & 19.

Teens can enjoy video games, card games.

Teen Advisory Group

The Cranford Public Library will be hosting our Teen Advisory Group on the second Monday of the month through December 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

The future dates for the meetings are:
October 15, November 12, and
December 10.

Teens in the community are welcome to share their thoughts on the Teen Zone. All those in attendance will earn community service hours.

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CPD RECOGNIZED FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

CRANFORD MONTHLY • Page 23 • December 2018

The Cranford Police Department was presented with the Silver Level Recognition for New Jersey Safe Routes to School by EZ Ride at their 35th Anniversary & Annual Recognition Event held on October 18, 2018. Annually, EZ Ride recognizes and honors the deserving individuals, municipalities and corporations who work tirelessly behind the scenes to affect positive change in our state's mobility. Captain Guy Patterson and Det./ Lieutenant Edward Davenport were on hand to accept the certificate of recognition for the Cranford Police Department, who were honored for their commitment and support of the 'Safe Routes to School' program and for encouraging children to walk and bicycle to school. The Cranford Police Department has initiated a variety of education, enforcement, and engineering programs to improve the Township's walkability throughout the community.

EZ Ride is a not for profit, public-private partnership to improve access, reduce congestion and promote economic growth by working with

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(above) Captain Guy Patterson and Det./ Lieutenant Edward Davenport.

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