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CRANFORD GIRLS SCOUTS EARN SILVER AWARD FOR WORK HELPING SHELTER ANIMALS AND RAISING AWARENESS

Submitted by Anne-Marie McGuinness

Girl Scouts of Cranford Troop 40534 worked on earning the Silver Award during the spring and summer of 2018. The Silver Award is the second highest award in Girl Scouting. The troop worked on two projects that focused on areas the girls wanted to improve in the Cranford community. Four girls from the troop, Ava Janish, Audrey Esteves, Natalia Onisko and Emma Donnelly, worked together on a project focused on helping animals and raising awareness about different issues related to animal welfare. The girls' project focused on supporting a local cat shelter and on educating people about important issues related to animal welfare.

The four girls collaborated with a local cat shelter called "Angel Paws" in Colonia, NJ, and collected donated products to support the shelter such as food, cleaning products, blankets, etc., which they delivered to the shelter. The girls also on multiple occasions set up a booth at Petco and at other locations around town to collect donations and to educate the public about important issues that affect the welfare of both cats and dogs, including the importance of spaying and neutering, why declawing can harm cats, the dangers of animal hoarding, how, without meaning to endanger their pets, some decisions can cause animals harm, and things people can do to help improve animals' lives. The girls created a website to educate people about all of these important topics. With generous donations from the public, the girls purchased and delivered many items that Angel Paws needs to keep their cats happy and healthy.

The girls also raised awareness and collected donations from the public in other creative ways. They set up a booth at the Cranford street fair on April 29, 2018, where they informed many people about their project and how they could help. Several of the girls visited Cranford's local business community to ask for their support. The girls were able to educate patrons about their project and suggested ways people could help animals and support the shelter. One of the girls attended a "Take Your Child to Work Day" event where she raised awareness about animals and received a generous donation. Another girl created an iMovie video to add to the website with a very personal appeal for the humane treatment of animals. The girls also held several bake sales at their school. After soliciting the support of the principals at two local Cranford schools, the girls set up donation boxes and posted flyers about the project, and the students and teachers at both schools very generously donated supplies to support Angel Paws.

By the end of their project, the girls donated about one thousand dollars in needed supplies to Angel Paws, and they continue to volunteer their time to support the shelter. Now that their project has concluded, the girls are thrilled to have successfully completed the project and earned the Silver award. They are extremely grateful to their fellow township residents, neighbors and friends for their support and for helping the



*(above, l-r) Ava Janish, Audrey Esteves,
Natalia Onisko and Emma Donnelly.*



animals by donating to Angel Paws! To learn more and how you can help, please visit the girls' website at www.40534gstroop.wixsite.com/caninesandcats and the Angel Paws website at www.angelpaws.org.

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POLICE OFFICER HELPED DELIVER BABY BOY

Patrolmen Daniel Donnerstag and Nicholas Cook were on patrol around 3:46 a.m., early on Monday morning, December 10, 2018, when they were dispatched to a call for a pregnant woman in labor. Ruth Orozco had gone into labor in her Cranford home. Contractions were only a minute apart and the baby’s head had begun crowning.

Patrolman Donnerstag, an EMT and 5-year veteran of the force, quickly arrived on scene and assessed the situation, making a determination that their time was limited and the delivery would need to occur in the home. Patrolman Donnerstag calmly assisted with the delivery of the baby boy, and everyone, including the newborn’s parents, were relieved

when the baby began to cry. Patrolman Cook and two additional officers who responded to the home, Patrolmen Pasternak and McSharry, all took part in comforting the newborn and his parents until the Cranford First Aid Squad arrived on the scene.

The Cranford First Aid Squad took the baby boy and mother to Overlook Hospital for evaluation. The proud parents, Steven and Ruth Orozco of Cranford reported, baby Louis is “healthy” as they expressed their gratitude to the responding officers for their actions.

“To this beautiful family from all of us at the Cranford Police Department, we say, ‘Congratulations!’”, stated Police Chief Ryan Greco.



(above) *The Orozco Family*



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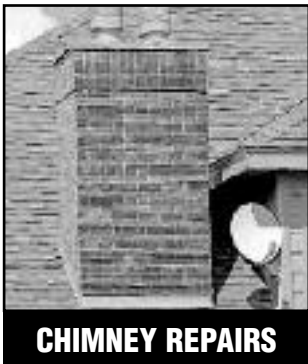
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SANTA CAME TO TOWN

On Saturday, December 15, 2018, the Cranford Chamber of Commerce hosted photos with Santa at the Gazebo and free trolley rides, sponsored by St. Michael Church and Two River Bank.



(above) Elf Shane, Santa, and Brian Kennedy who provided music for caroling on the trolley.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Presented by Cranford Newcomers Club



GIRL SCOUTS CELEBRATE WITH TREE DECORATING

Submitted by Kerry Rokicki

More than 330 Cranford Girl Scouts participated in the annual decorating of the town holiday tree in Mayor's Park on Friday, November 23, 2018. For the fourth year in a row, Cranford Girl Scout Junior Troop 40013 hosted the event. The morning activities included The Pledge of Allegiance led by Girl Scout Brownie Troops 40079 and 40455, the singing of The Star Spangled Banner by Girl Scout Junior Megan Moritz, and a food drive to benefit the Community FoodBank of New Jersey. Girl Scouts from Daisies in kindergarten up through Cadettes in high school participated in the tree decorating by hanging hundreds of hand-crafted ornaments on the boughs and branches.

The tree in Mayor's Park is located across from the township municipal building at the corners of Springfield and North Avenues. The tree decorating event was part of a full agenda sponsored by the Cranford Chamber of

Commerce that culminated with the tree lighting ceremony in the evening.

"It was our pleasure and honor to once again lead this well-loved town tradition," said Elayna Torsone, leader of Girl Scout Junior Troop 40013. "As hosts, we coordinate the schedule, organize the troops and set the tone for a fun and festive morning. This year was especially cold, so we made sure to be extra warm and welcoming. The girls learn a lot from this event, such as how to incorporate new ideas and work as a team."

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.

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CRANFORD GIRL SCOUTS SUPPORT CRANFORD FAMILY CARE WITH THANKSGIVING INITIATIVES

Submitted by Kerry Rokicki

Thanksgiving is not only a holiday for gratitude, it's also a time for compassion and caring. Two Brownie troops from the Girl Scouts of Cranford Service Unit 48 demonstrated that by completing projects to benefit Cranford Family Care, a local non-profit that supports residents in need.

Brownie Troop 40967 compiled a Thanksgiving basket full of food, cozy blankets, socks, holiday decorations and more. The basket was donated to Cranford Family Care which facilitated its delivery to a specific local family. This is the third year the troop has created this kind of donation as part of the philanthropy badge.

Brownie Troop 40655 sponsored a drive and collected enough to create 15 bags of food for donation to Cranford Family Care. Each bag contained foods perfect for a delicious Thanksgiving dinner, with the exception of the turkey. The Brownies delivered the bags to the CFC facility, met director Kathleen Willis, and learned about the services the organization

provides like supporting senior citizens and other residents with access to food pantry items.

"The girls really enjoyed meeting Mrs. Willis and seeing how the donations would help others have a more enjoyable holiday," said Lori Smith, leader of Troop 40655. "It was wonderful for the girls to connect their service initiative with the organization it was benefiting."

In addition to the efforts of the Brownie troops, 15 Senior Scouts in Cranford (9th grade) also contributed to Cranford Family Care. They collected and donated fresh produce to accompany the Thanksgiving meals going to those in need.

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The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Ave, will hold their eight-week seminar "Journey to Wholeness- Healing the Grieving Heart" on Sunday evenings from January 13, 2019 to March 3, 2019.

Patti Williams, R.N. and certified pastoral bereavement counselor, and Virginia Waters, Ph.D. and psychologist, will lead the sessions from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Prime Time Room at the church. This location is handicapped accessible.

Williams and Waters have offered this seminar for over 18 years, and have helped 2,800 people experience healing, find a new purpose for their lives and feel joy once again. "This is an experience like no other," states Williams.

The sessions include learning about the stages of grief and understanding the tasks of the grieving process, coping strategies, dealing with loneliness, building a support system and more.

The seminar is dedicated to Williams's late husband, the Rev. Dr. Bruce D. Williams who had a vision for this program, wanting to help others deal with their pain and suffering during their time of loss.

One participant, Joan, states, "I have learned more along this heartbreaking journey than I ever thought possible. I have learned that you will never ever forget your love and that you are changed forever, but you need to give yourself permission to heal. I have learned that I can revisit the past, but I cannot live in it, because it undermines my present and all that I have is just today. I have learned that love never dies and my love is with me always because he sends me signs to tell me so. These are my greatest treasures. I

have learned that by keeping his memory alive with stories, photos etc. it makes me smile and brings me a kind of peace. I believe that your loved one only wants the best for you and you will be reunited one day."

Both of the leaders and all of the facilitators have experienced loss within their lives and share from the inside out. "It does not matter if the loss is divorce, death or job loss; loss is loss, it must be grieved. It does not matter how long ago you experienced loss. Bring family members and friends," states Williams. All faiths are welcome. To register for this event, call Williams at 908-709-1341. No fee is charged, though registration is required.



(above, l-r) Patti Williams, RN, certified pastoral bereavement counselor, and Dr. Virginia Waters, Ph.D., psychologist, have been running the Grief Seminar for 18 years.

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LT ROGER S NORTON JR, U.S. NAVY RESERVE AND CRANFORD 86 HERO

By Stu Rosenthal and Don Sweeney with Bob Lopez

As we march into a new year profiling the brave young men who sacrificed their lives in defense of freedom, we find ourselves profiling a naval aviator from Cranford, NJ who perished New Year's Day, 1943. Following our prior tributes about local pilots, some may now believe aviators are common in the U.S. military. Let us remind you, the qualifications are high, and the training is difficult. The fact that so many Cranford young men achieved this prestigious designation is a credit to our town and its ability to nurture such fine young men. This month, our Hometown Hero is Lieutenant Roger Norton Jr., pilot of a maritime patrol aircraft, the PBY Catalina flying boat.

Since we began this journey in 2016, our stories have followed the collection of documents, anecdotes, pictures and a timeline of a brave young man known to Cranford. Much of this story, however, will be recited by a proud Gold Star father, Roger S. Norton Sr. He left behind a touching tribute to his son in a note we retrieved at the Cranford Historical Society. It was written on letterhead denoting their home on 22 Central Ave in Cranford. Roger Jr. was the second fatality from Cranford during World War II, but perhaps its first combatant, patrolling the U-boat-infested Atlantic Ocean months before the U.S. was officially at war.

Roger Jr. was born in Brooklyn, NY on April 9th, 1919, and then moved to Freeport, NY. Before the Norton family settled in Cranford in 1928, Roger likely attended private schools in Norwich, VT and Hanover, NH. In 1932, he completed eighth grade at Roosevelt School, and was enrolled at Cleveland School on North Union Ave., which was Cranford's high school until 1938. Roger was in the same class as Alan Okell, another Cranford 86 Hometown Hero aviator that we recently profiled, and whose namesake street is located next to Roger Norton Place in the Indian Village section of Cranford.

Roger Norton Sr's passage follows: "While in high school, Roger was one of the editors of the *Spotlight* [school newspaper] and Editor in Chief of the 1936 'Golden C' [yearbook]. He was awarded Honorable Mention for New Jersey in the Literary Division – Quill and Scroll Column Award of the Scholastic Awards, National High School Competition, a National Scholastic Award. His athletics included tennis and a place as 'Goalie' on the Cranford High School hockey team.

At nineteen, Roger was approaching completion of his Junior year at the University of Michigan [where he was studying English]. His scholastic standing was good, but he felt that writing, his prospective career, demanded somewhat more experience in living than he had yet attained, and he set out to gain such experience, intending to return later and finish his college work. He regarded Naval Aviation as a likely field for such experience and began his training as a Naval Aviator in Oakland, California, in the Spring of 1939. His further training was at Pensacola, Florida, then the 'Annapolis of the Air' and it was there that he



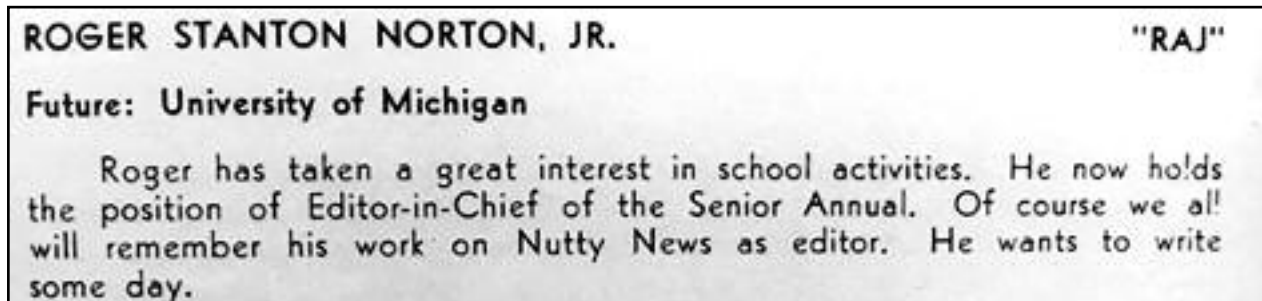
A fine young man, Roger's grade school portrait.



Roger Norton's 1936 Yearbook portrait.



Ensign Roger S. Norton Jr. U.S. Naval Aviator



received his 'Wings' and his commission as an Ensign in the United States Naval Reserve in March, 1940.

Assigned first to Patrol Squadron 52 (later designated Patrol Squadron 72), he was stationed initially at Charleston, South Carolina, then at Norfolk, Virginia, and later Quonset Point, Rhode Island. His group was part of the Atlantic Patrol prior to our entry into the war. Among his other tasks at this time, he and another Ensign prepared jointly *A Course of Study in Patrol Seaplane Navigation*, which was used in instructional work by our Navy.

While at Quonset Point, his Squadron was assigned the task of providing an air convoy for the vessels which were then transporting our troops to Iceland and also participated in the search for the [German battleship] *Bismarck*. He was designated a Patrol Plane Commander in November, 1941. When we entered the war, his Squadron immediately was sent to the Pacific area and was stationed at Kaneohe Bay Naval Air Base, Hawaiian Islands.

He was appointed Lieutenant (junior grade) on May 27, 1942 and shortly thereafter was assigned to duty in the South Pacific. It was at about this time he was selected as the pilot to transport Admiral Nimitz on a tour of the area, which may be regarded not only as a signal honor, but also as concrete evidence of his recognized ability as an aviator. On October 1, 1942 he was appointed a full grade Lieutenant. His duties as a Patrol Plane Pilot were largely those of reconnaissance and rescue work. In line with such duties, he saw active service in several of the major battles of the Pacific.

Our research and narrative could not offer a better tribute to the character and sacrifice of Roger Norton Jr. Yet, the historical significance

of his participation in the Atlantic patrol operations - conducted well before the U.S. officially declared war - merits a closer look. When Norton reported to Charleston in 1940, the new aviator joined a patrol unit that was busy conducting U-boat sweeps deep into the neutral waters of the Atlantic. Later, key agreements signed with Britain would commit the U.S. to "short-of-war" naval operations.

In 1941, Norton's unit began training in Norfolk with submarines, as military cooperation between the U.S. and Britain accelerated. U.S. policy had now guaranteed security in the Western Hemisphere, which included protecting maritime shipments to Britain. By May, Norton deployed to the Naval Station Argentia in Newfoundland, Canada, for final training before patrols would commence for protecting transatlantic convoys.

The PBY was uniquely suited for patrol operations. With a range of 2500 miles without refueling, and the ability to carry enormous loads of depth charges, torpedoes and traditional bombs. It was a daunting weapon to engage German U-boats which were stalking British supply convoys. But it could also take off and land in the water - an ideal craft for rescuing downed pilots. Designed and manufactured by Consolidated Aircraft of San Diego, it was yet another American engineering marvel that contributed to wartime victory.

In May 1941, Hitler's pride of the fleet, the *Bismarck*, debuted in the Atlantic. Fearful it might disrupt the delivery of critical supplies, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill unleashed the Royal Navy, to hunt for the world's largest and most heavily armored battleship. The PBYs were then ordered from both sides of the

(continued on page 9)

LT ROGER S NORTON JR (continued)

Atlantic, from Newfoundland to Great Britain, to conduct vast sweeps in search of the German ship. On May 24th, the Bismarck was attacked and damaged, but not before sinking the HMS Hood, a flagship British vessel believed unsinkable. Churchill vowed to avenge its loss, and the lives of over 1400 British sailors.

Just days after arriving at Argentia, Norton's squadron was conducting routine training when it was abruptly recalled to the USS Albemarle, its escort ship. The aircrews were advised of a long, secret reconnaissance mission over the Atlantic, in search of the Bismarck. They were also warned of bleak weather, and harsh flying conditions (see photo). Four PBY aircraft from Norton's unit departed at 2:40 pm, followed by another seven at 5:20 pm. The first group approached the search area southwest of Greenland around dusk and observed no vessels through the mustering fog. They were ordered back in icing weather. The second group flew through the fog and darkness to the assigned area. They searched for the German battleship, before turning around, empty-handed.

Back at Argentia, the thick, low fog made landing unsafe and planes with sufficient fuel were ordered south. Disoriented, the PBY pilots became dispersed, and set down in the waters surrounding Newfoundland. One crew disembarked near Anticosti Island, and rowed ashore in a yellow raft, seeking assistance. The isolated inhabitants, who only spoke French, ran away, scared of the oddly dressed aircrew. Ironically, the locals had encountered a group of Germans a few years prior who sought to purchase their island under the guise of representatives of the wood pulp processing industry. Many speculated that they were Nazi agents seeking to gain a strategic military air field on the island. Now, the frightened natives

believed the innocuous fliers from Patrol Squadron 52 were returning Nazi invaders. Seemingly, Ensign Roger Norton Jr may have been among this bewildered U.S. aircrew stuck on Anticosti Island. By the next day, however, Norton's squadron had been safely reunited at Argentia.

Ensign Norton and his patrol squadron had been early participants in the greatest air-sea pursuit in naval warfare history. Forty British ships began searching the vast waters of the Atlantic for the elusive Bismarck. Finally, on May 26th, an American PBY pilot/advisor secretly flying with a British aircrew from Northern Ireland spotted the damaged Bismarck listing, or tilting, about 700 miles offshore. By the next day, surrounded by the Royal Navy, the largest and most ironclad battleship at the time was bombarded. Just days after her maiden voyage, the Bismarck was sunk, and over 2000 German sailors died.

U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared a national emergency, using the Bismarck incident to express the seriousness of the German threat. But U.S. involvement remained controversial and covert since Roosevelt was acting outside of a congressional policy of neutrality. Later, President Roosevelt would state that if the U.S. Congress knew of his actions, he would have been impeached.

Detachments from Norton's unit began rotating between Rhode Island for training exercises and Newfoundland for convoy escort operations. Preparations for war had intensified and the risks mounted. In July, deployments began to a new U.S. base in Iceland, despite proximity within Germany's declared war zone. With the start of escort-of-convoy patrols in September, U.S. fatalities followed. Eleven sailors died aboard the USS Kearney after it was

torpedoed by a German U-boat. Another 100 were lost when the USS Reuben James was sunk by the Germans. Consequently, throughout most of 1941, Ensign Norton, his patrol squadron and the U.S. Navy were engaged in an undeclared Atlantic war against Germany.

Roger Norton Sr.'s letter continues: *At the time of Roger's death, he was stationed in the Solomon Islands and had been assigned the task of flying to the rescue of an Army pilot who had been forced down at sea off the island of New Georgia. His mission successfully accomplished, he was on his way back to his base and was about to set his flying boat down just off Lunga Point, Guadalcanal, when a small landing craft darted directly across his path. By swerving sharply to one side and at the same time upward he avoided a collision with the landing craft, but in doing so his plane lost momentum and crashed into the sea. He was instantly killed in the crash, as were also three members of his crew. The plane sank in such deep water and so quickly that his body could not be recovered.*

Roger S. Norton Jr., the aspiring writer searching for seafaring adventures that could provide perspective for his future work, had accomplished only some of his goals. We can only imagine what great writings would have flowed from his pen. He was an American hero and among the first Cranford 86 Hometown Heroes engaged in World War II combat operations. We thank the residents of Roger Norton Place and Alan Okell Place for sponsoring the banners for these two Cranford High School Class of 1936 classmates. Go to Cranford86.org for links to our research sources and YouTube video links pertaining to this month's story.

For information on our project, or to sponsor a banner of a Cranford 86 hero, please call Don Sweeney at 908 272-0876.

(continued on page 10)



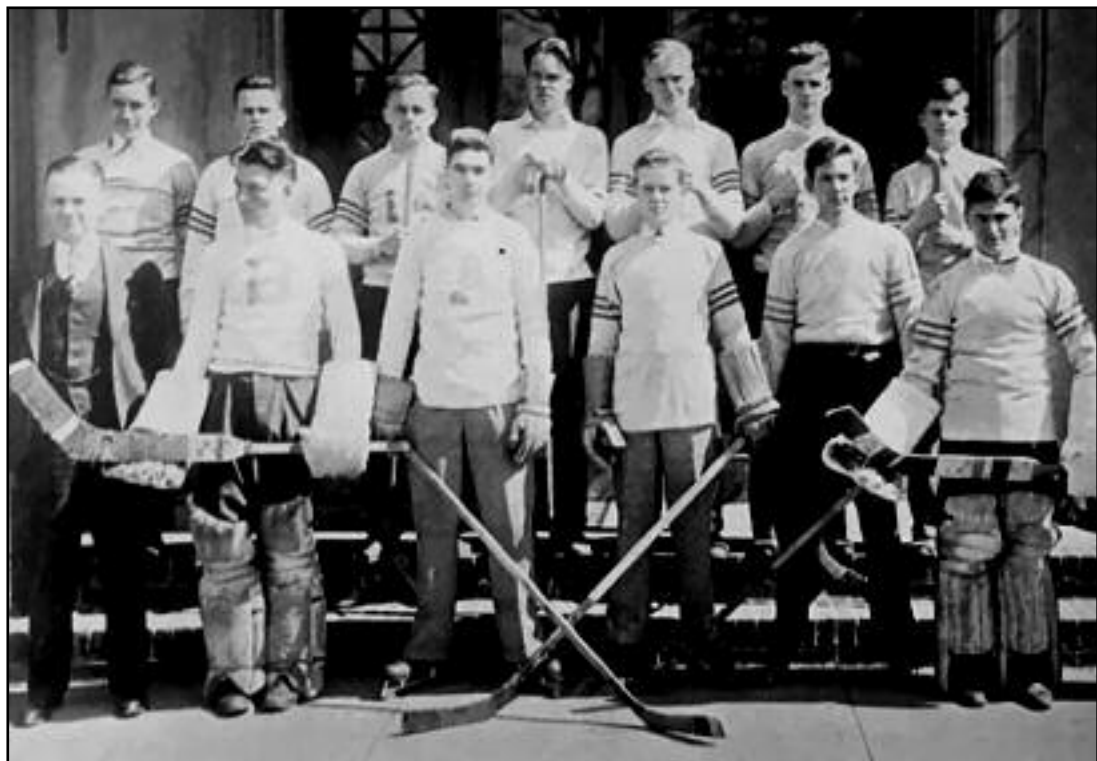
The Golden C staff from Cranford's Yearbook from 1936. Roger Norton Jr. was Editor in chief of both the Cranford Yearbook as well as the Spotlight Cranford High School's newspaper.



In a letter found at The Cranford Historical Society, Roger Norton's father detailed the life of his son through to his death at Guadalcanal in the South Pacific. One note that he made was that he donated his son's naval officer's sword to the society. We found it wrapped carefully in their archives at The Hanson House on Centennial Ave.

The sword had incredible detail especially in the handle which seems to be made of coral with dolphins and eagles embossed on several places on the sword and scabbard.

LT ROGER S NORTON JR (continued)



Roger Norton’s High School Hockey team 1936 from The Golden C Cranford yearbook. Norton was the goalie.



Roger Norton pictured with his 1936 Tennis team on the steps of Cleveland High School.



An actual photograph of a PBY Catalina flying boat from Roger Norton’s Patrol Squadron 72.



An amazing research find. This photograph is of the actual flying boat haven in Argentia, Newfoundland in August of 1941 while Roger Norton was stationed there. Seven PBY Catalina flying boats are harbored next to the USS Albemarle, their seaplane tender pictured at the far right



1. A design drawing of a PBY-5, like one flown by Ens. Roger S. Norton Jr. while serving with VP-52 in 1941. Note the front and side gun turrets. 2. The wing ends turned down to act as floats for take-off and landing stability.



(left) Roger Norton Place in the The Indian Village section of Cranford dedicated in memory of the World War 2 Hometown Hero. Note the Blue Star emblem at the bottom.



(above) Arm patch that would have been worn by Roger S. Norton Jr.

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POSTAL EMPLOYEE JENNIFER GOODWIN PREVENTS TWO FRAUD CASES

Cranford Police officially thanked Cranford Post Office employee Jennifer Goodwin for her efforts in preventing two separate fraud cases within the Township of Cranford this December. Within a two-week span, Mrs. Goodwin intercepted two elderly Cranford residents at the Cranford Post Office who were sending cash through the mail for activity linked to scams.

Jennifer became suspicious and she quickly alerted the Cranford Police Department and in doing so, prevented these two residents from becoming victims of these common scams and fraud schemes aimed at the elderly population.

Jennifer is also a Cranford resident has been working at the Cranford Post Office for 25 years. She served on the boards of the PTA/PTC of her son's middle school and belongs to the VFW Ladies Auxiliary.

Chief Ryan Greco of the Cranford Police Department was thankful for Mrs. Goodwin's actions stating, "Her involvement in these fraud cases was exemplary and she should be commended for her actions."

The news of her actions can serve as a warning to other elderly folks and their caregivers to be aware of the many types of scams that are perpetrated. Always be suspicious about anyone requesting cash or the purchase of gift cards.



(above) Cranford Post Office employee, Jennifer Goodwin, is a resident of Cranford and a 25-year veteran of the Cranford Post Office.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR WINTER PROGRAMS AT CRANFORD RECREATION & PARKS

The Cranford Recreation & Parks Department is currently conducting registration for Winter programs. Our Fall/Winter brochure lists all winter programs and may also be viewed on line at cranfordnj.org/recreation-parks or by following us on Facebook at facebook.com/CranfordRecreationAndParks. All programs are for Cranford residents only.

We are strongly encouraging registration for all classes to be done online through Community

Pass. Online registration will enable you to register 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to make payment by credit card and to receive the latest program updates as they occur through your account. You may access your existing account or create a new account by visiting <https://register.communitypass.net/cranford>. If you would like assistance to register online or have any other questions, please stop by the Recreation Department or call (908) 709-7283.

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CRANFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS

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UPCOMING EVENTS - JANUARY 2019

2019 " Start the Year Off Right" Party
January 16th 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
The Thirsty Turtle
1-7 South Avenue W
Cranford, N.J.
Cost \$15 Members/\$20 Non-Members
Register at cranfordareachamber.com or
call 908 272 6114

Third Annual Multi-Chamber Event
January 30th 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Nine Chambers Participating
Galloping Hill Caterers
1085 Galloping Hill Road
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\$40 Members/\$50 Non-Members
Sign up early - Seating is limited
Sponsorship Tables available
Information at cranfordareachamber.com
or call 908 272 6114

The Cranford Area Chamber of Commerce unites and energizes the business community to improve members' success by providing networking, educational opportunities, encouraging business and community development.

CRANFORD CHAMBER JOINS TO HOST MULTI-CHAMBER NETWORKING EVENT

Cranford Area Chamber of Commerce invites its members and friends to a special multi-chamber business-to-business networking event on Wednesday, January 30, 2018, 6 – 8 p.m., at the Galloping Hill Caterers, 1085 Galloping Hill Road, Union, NJ.

The event offers an opportunity to mix and mingle with members of nine local chambers, including the Cranford Area Chamber of Commerce, Union Township Chamber of Commerce, the Springfield Patriot Chamber of Commerce, the Linden Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce, Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce, Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce, the Suburban Chamber of Commerce and the Edison Chamber of Commerce.

The evening will feature a sumptuous buffet, cash bar and the chance to meet with hundreds of colleagues from all types of businesses. Last year's event was sold out early, with almost 300 attendees.

Those interested may register online at the home page of cranfordareachamber.com. Admission is \$40 for members, \$50 for non-members. Pre-registration is strongly recommended, as the charge for walk-ins is an additional \$15. Further information may be had by calling the Cranford Area Chamber at 908-272-6114 or by emailing cranfordchamber@comcast.net.

"The Cranford Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to again be part of this wonderful event. It is an excellent opportunity to network with other local chamber members, enjoy the great food and attend this once-a-year successful event" said Executive Director Dottie Baniewicz.

The Cranford Area Chamber of Commerce unites and energizes the business community to improve members' success by providing networking, educational opportunities, encouraging business and community development.



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FASHION SHOW FOR SENIORS

Submitted by Sylvia Martinez

Volunteers with The Westfield Service League, along with a couple of members' spouses, recently put on a Fashion Show for residents of Cranford Senior Housing. WSL members modeled fashions from the Thrift Shop it operates at 114 Elmer Street in Westfield. After the show, residents were able to buy some of the clothing and accessories modeled, along with other items brought to the senior housing facility. Residents

were thrilled with the fashions and affordability of the many items. A non-profit organization, WSL also operates a Consignment Shop at the same location. Proceeds from the shops are distributed via grants to other non-profits in Westfield and Union County. WSL is in its 86th year and has awarded more than \$2.8 million in grants over the decades. To learn more, visit thewestfieldserviceleague.org.



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EQUALITY WORKSHOP AT THE LIBRARY

The Cranford Public Library will host a workshop with Garden State Equality on Thursday, January 24th, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. The topic of this workshop is "Creating Safe and Affirming Communities for Transgender Youth." Garden State Equality is the largest LGBT advocacy organization in the state, and they collaborate with community partners to bring trainings like this one state-wide. GSE is responsible for assisting in the passing of 216 laws since its founding in 2004 to protect and give rights to LGBTQIA+ individuals, including the most comprehensive anti-bullying laws in the nation. Teens and adults are invited to join us for this workshop. Admission to the program is free and all are welcome. This program will be held at the Cranford Community Center located at 220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford.

CRANFORD SENIORS

The Thursday Cranford Senior group is seeking new members. The group offers many fun activities such as trips, luncheons, bingo etc. Spend time with old friends, build new friendships and socialize within the Cranford Community. Please contact Lori-Ann Donnelly, Senior Citizen Program Coordinator at (908) 709-7283.

JANUARY EVENTS AT CRANFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Children's musician Big Jeff will be leading a musical performance for children ages 2-5 and their families to celebrate another year of "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" at the Cranford Public Library! This lively program is perfect for preschoolers and features a mix of classic hits and original tunes. Join us in the Cranford Community Center on Saturday, January 12 at 10:30 a.m. to participate. This free program is made possible by the generous support of the Friends of the Library.

The library will be hosting another Family Fort night on Friday, January 11 from 4:45-6:00 p.m. for families with children of all ages! Bring an old sheet or blanket and a pillow and stay in the library past close to create a fort to read in.

Story Time Yoga returns on Thursday mornings from January 17 to February 21. This morning exercise program for children ages 2-5 and a caregiver mixes poses, games, storytelling,

art and music to teach children to release the sillies and find the calm. Kids will use balls, scarves, pinwheels and pom-poms to build strength, flexibility, and self-confidence through play. Admission is on a first come, first serve basis and space is limited. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

The Cranford Public Library is offering "IDiscover Coding," a monthly introduction to computer programming. Each class will acquaint children with a coding concept through the use of fun, educational apps. Students will create interactive stories, animation, and even video games! Children in grades 1-3 can join us on January 29 at 6:30 p.m. Registration is not required, but space is limited. This program is sponsored by a grant from the Union County Freeholders.

For a list of other upcoming programs, visit the library webpage at cranfordlibrary.org.

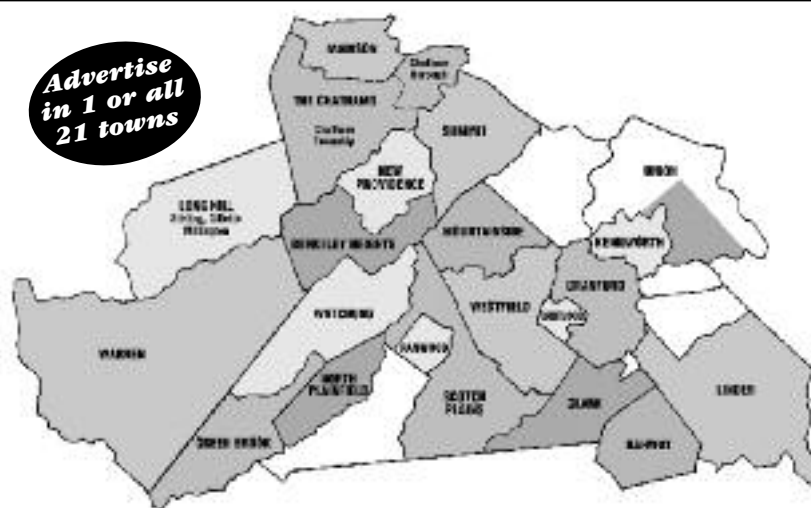
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4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700
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GIRLS SOCCER TEAM ARE COUNTY CHAMPS

The Cranford High School Varsity Girls Soccer team won the 2018 Union County Conference championship for the first time since 2000. The team ended the season with a 18-4 record, its best record in program history. It was the first time that the team reached the finals since 2013. On the state level the team reached the finals for their North II Group II conference. This was the first appearance there since 2000 also.

The varsity girls also were undefeated at home matches with a 12-0 record. A highlight of the season included beating powerhouse Westfield and ending their 48-game unbeaten streak with the 4-1 win. They also beat Scotch Plains, another Union County powerhouse.

Cranford was recognized as a Top 20 Team in the state, and standout Maggie Murry was named Union County Player of the Year by NJ.com.

Photo by Cranford Public School District



Varsity Girls Soccer team, 2018

“JOSEPHINE - THE EMPRESS GARDENED” FEATURING GARDEN HISTORIAN LESLEY PARNESS

Please join the Hanson Park Conservancy on Tuesday, January 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cranford Community Center as we welcome Garden Historian Lesley Parness for a very special presentation: “Josephine - The Empress Gardened.”

Ms. Parness will discuss how French Empress Josephine’s fine taste informed 18th and 19th century style, from couture fashion to interior design. Likewise, she was influenced by her Caribbean heritage, her narrow escape from the guillotine, and her legendary love for flowers. When divorced from her husband, Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, this powerful style-maker and lifelong fashionista focused her energies on her estate, Malmaison. There, Josephine’s passion for plants grew and bloomed. Her legendary love of roses stopped a war, cost a fortune, set explorers to sail, and started a floral industry that endures today.

Lesley Parness is the retired Superintendent of Horticultural Education at New Jersey's Morris County Park Commission where she oversaw programming at The Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Willowood Arboretum and Bamboo Brook Outdoor Education Center. She is a member of the Herb Society of America, The Council on Horticultural and Botanical Literature, and Garden State Gardens, a consortium of New Jersey's public gardens of which she is a Founding Member.

The Cranford Community Center is located at 220 Walnut Ave. in Cranford, NJ. The program is free and open to the public. No registration is required, but seating is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. This presentation is sponsored by the Hanson Park Conservancy.

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

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