

CRANFORD MONTHLY_{NJ}

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GIRL SCOUTS EARN PRESTIGIOUS GOLD AND SILVER AWARDS

Submitted by Kerry Rokicki

On the evening of May 22, 2019, the Girl Scouts of Cranford, Service Unit 48, presented the national organization’s most prestigious honor – the Gold Award – to three young women of Cranford, NJ. The Gold Award recipients – Lauren Manning, Lindsay Aschmies, and Sarah Hoffman - were honored at a recognition dinner at Garwood’s The Westwood. Sixteen Girl Scout Seniors were also honored for earning their Silver Award, the precursor to the Gold Award. Both achievements involve extensive community service and are designed to foster both collaboration and independence. Girl Scout Ambassador Mary Grace McNamara also received the 2019 Distinguished Girl Scout Service Award.

Guest speakers at the ceremony included Tracy Castle-Newman (Managing Director, Morgan Stanley), Diana Polack (President and Founder of ArtWare for Good), Mary Brawley (Special Education Teacher, Cranford Public Schools), and former Cranford Girl Scout AnnaLee Gallo (RN, NYU Orthopedic Hospital). The evening event was also attended by Natasha Hemmings, CEO of the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey.

“Cranford’s Girl Scout Service Unit 48 is extremely proud

to honor these young ladies for their hard work and years of dedication to our community,” said Kristin Santos, Service Unit Manager for the Girl Scouts of Cranford.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest and most prestigious award that Girl Scout Ambassadors and Seniors can earn. The Gold Award has stood for excellence and leadership for girls everywhere. Each Gold Award recipient joins the ranks of generations of young women who have made a difference in their communities and beyond. Projects require a minimum of 80 hours of work; including identifying an issue, investigating the issue thoroughly, building a team, creating a plan, presenting the plan, gathering feedback, taking action, educating and inspiring others, and ensuring the project is sustainable.

The Girl Scouts of Cranford, Service Unit 48, boasts over 1,135 Girl Scout members in 73 troops and Juliette’s making it one of the largest non-profit organizations in town. The Cranford Service Unit is a part of the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey (GSHNJ) Council which is part of the Girl Scouts of the USA. If your family is interested in learning more about local Girl Scouts or to find out more information on the Girl Scouts of Cranford, please visit CranfordGirlScouts.com.

(continued on page 4.)

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(above) Pictured are the sixteen Cranford Girl Scouts who received the Silver Award.



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CRANE'S FORD DAR INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

Submitted by Mary Leonard

At a meeting held on June 8, 2019 at the Hanson House in Cranford, the Crane's Ford DAR chapter held an installation ceremony of new officers for the 2019-2022 term. The following officers have been installed: Regent, Bonnie Cierkowski of Cranford; Vice Regent, Kathy Hercel of Scotch Plains; Recording Secretary, Valeri Shafer of Winfield Park; Corresponding Secretary, Joanne Rajoppi of Union; Chaplain, Mary Leonard of Roselle Park; Librarian, Diane Recinos of Rahway; Historian, Barbara Krause of Cranford; Registrar, Patti Campanelli of Clark; and Treasurer, Nancy Hatfield of Westfield.

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a women's volunteer service organization dedicated to historic preservation, education and patriotism. For membership in the DAR a

woman must prove her lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. DAR volunteers are always willing to provide guidance and assistance with your search for ancestors. The Crane's Ford chapter Registrar, Patti Campanelli, can be reached by email at patushkat@aol.com or the National DAR at dar.org for more information on membership.

The Crane's Ford chapter was organized in March of 1944 in Cranford, and recently celebrated their 75th anniversary.

Meetings are held from October to June each year. Programs include guest speakers giving presentations on Conservation, Historic Preservation, American History, Women's Issues, visits to the VA facility in Basking Ridge, and the annual holiday party when we collect gift cards for DAR sponsored school in North Carolina.



(above, l-r) Barbara Krause, Historian; Bonnie Cierkowski, Regent; Kathy Hercel, Vice-Regent; Joanne Rajoppi, Corresponding Secretary; Nancy Hatfield, Treasurer; Mary Leonard, Chaplain; Valeri Shafer, Recording Secretary and Patti Campanelli, Registrar.

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GIRL SCOUTS GOLD AND SILVER AWARDS (continued from page 1.)

Lauren Manning, of Girl Scout Ambassador Troop 40842, focused her Gold Award project on the current gender imbalance in the field of computer science. Through a four-week, eighty hour introduction to coding class, she shared her passion for computing with twenty rising fifth grade students from Colin Powell Elementary School in Union City, New Jersey. Her goal was to provide the girls with a new experience and inspire them to explore the field of coding. Manning focused on the Java coding language and used a beginners program to simplify the subject matter. In addition to the coursework, she created a web site which includes a full tutorial of the class which extends the reach and scope of her service.

Lindsay Aschmies, of Girl Scout Ambassador Troop 40842, created wildlife gardens to support local populations of butterflies, bees and birds. Her Gold Award also included educating others, including school children, about sustainable, Earth-friendly gardening practices that would encourage the growth and health of local wildlife. Her project included collaborating with the Christopher Academy to create and/or refurbish two school gardens, creating lesson plans on responsible gardening and implementing composting practices including the donation of two barrel composters.

Sarah Hoffman, of Girl Scout Ambassador Troop 40046, focused her project on bridging past, present and future. She partnered with the Cranford Historical Society to research 24 important people, places and things from the Township of Cranford. Next she collaborated with ArtWare for Good to create an installation of ceramic tiles with an image of each historical topic, a paragraph of context and a QR code. Those with a QR reader on their smartphone can use the technology to access additional information which was recorded by a popular local radio host. The tiles were used to create two living-history mosaics in the Cranford Community Center allowing visitors to learn more about the history of Cranford.

Mary Grace McNamara, of Girl Scout Ambassador Troop 40046, was bestowed the

2019 Distinguished Girl Scout Service Award. This award was established in 2014 to honor Girl Scout Ambassadors for their extreme dedication during their high school years and over 40 service hours to the younger Girl Scout troops in the Cranford community.

The Girl Scout Silver Award, the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette can earn, was presented to the following girls – Sofia Bongiovanni, Alyssa Colombrita, Bailey Croft, Bridget Kachooagian, Amelia Hunt, Julia Ramsay, Molly Love, Ariadne Mahadeo, Elaina Michetti, Tess Hagstrom, Emma Donnelly, Audrey Esteves, Ava Janish, Natalia Onisko, Sofia Pollack, and Caroline Willis. The Silver Award project requires at least 50 hours of dedication by each Girl Scout and is the precursor to earning the Gold Award.

“The projects presented this evening

demonstrate how the Girl Scout organization has helped foster leadership, passion, and desire within our young ladies to be the positive change they want to see in the world around them. They developed their passions and created projects that make a difference,” said Santos, who is concluding her fourth year as manager of Girl Scouts of Cranford, Service Unit 48.

Girl Scouts is the world's preeminent organization dedicated to girls and is designed to build character and skills for success in the real world. In partnership with committed adult volunteers, girls develop qualities that will serve them all their lives. For over 107 years, its membership has been unified towards the achievement of the Girl Scout mission: “To build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.”



(above) Cranford Girl Scouts Lauren Manning, Lindsay Aschmies, and Sarah Hoffman were each awarded the Gold Award.

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MARSIGLIA FAMILY PRESENTED WITH HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD

Submitted by Maureen Strazdon
The 2019 Cranford Historic Preservation Award has been presented to the Marsiglia family for their work in restoring the Cranford Trust Building. The Masiglias, owners of one of the sections of the Cranford Trust Building, replaced the dentil cornice that had fallen off an area of one of Cranford's most historic downtown buildings, making it look like it once did.

At a ceremony held in March, 2019, Richard, John, and Bill Marsiglia and their sister Paula Manto, were recognized for doing what they stated was “the right thing to do for Cranford and for the building”.

At the presentation, Maureen Strazdon, Chair



(above, l-r) John Marsiglia, Maureen Strazdon, and Rich Marsiglia.

of the Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB), gave a short history of the site and the buildings that have stood there. The first major building to sit on the corner of North and North Union Avenues was the Opera House Block, designed by Frank Lent, the architect of several for Cranford’s public buildings and finest mansions. The Opera House Block was built in 1892 by J. Walter Thompson, and was owned by William Sperry, founder of Sperry & Hutchinson (S&H) Green Stamps. The block housed the post office, the library, and a 500-seat auditorium that was used for musical programs and public meetings and many businesses. On February 3, 1912, a fire leveled the entire Block, resulting in losses of over \$125,000 (over \$3 million in today’s dollars).

In April 1912, William Sperry announced that a new building would replace the Opera House Block at a cost of about \$100,000. It would be a 3-story building of brick and artificial stone with 10 stores and several apartments and offices. There were partition walls from cellar to roof, so it was to be nine distinct buildings. The post office announced that they would relocate back to the building in December when it was scheduled to be finished. That building still stands as a cornerstone of Cranford’s downtown.

Meanwhile, the Cranford National Bank had opened in 1904 in the Masonic Building at the corner of North Union Avenue and Alden Street,

and in January 1912 the Cranford National Bank became the Cranford Trust. The bank’s president was Thomas Sperry, brother of the owner of the new building on North Avenue, William Sperry. In December the Cranford Trust moved into the new building and the entire building was named for the bank. Today, the Cranford Trust Building is home to the barber shop in the Marsiglia’s building, an ice cream shop, a bread store, a jewelry store, the bank and other businesses.

Each year the Cranford Historical Society and the Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB) jointly present an award to a residence or business that has expressed an interest in preservation and has taken efforts to preserve the character of Cranford.

Founded in 1927, the Cranford Historical Society is a private organization whose mission is to preserve and perpetuate the history of Cranford. For more information, visit cranfordhistoricalsociety.com.

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

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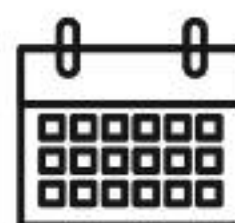
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Homes Listed



30

Homes Sold in
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(above, l-r) Torch Run 2019 Cranford Police Department runners Sgt. Nazzaro, Sgt. Swandrak, Capt. Patterson, Det. Dubitsky, Det. Jordan, and Ptl. Chamra with Tommy Wisniewski.

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EIGHT GOLD STAR FAMILIES ARE WELCOMED AT MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

By Don Sweeney, Cranford 86 Project

As the founding member of the Cranford 86 project I have watched our group gain momentum for the past three years. Not only did we come into Memorial Day 2019 with more Hometown Hero profiles than we have had in any of the previous years, but we also successfully acquired and renovated a parade float for Cranford VFW Post 335. These things alone were enough to make this year's Memorial Day remembrance a grand conclusion to the most rewarding year yet for our group. But it was the sharing of the Memorial Day weekend with the families of some of our 86 that truly touched our hearts and validated all the work that we have been doing.

With Cranford 86's newly expanded research and writing team of five, we were able to introduce eleven heroes to the townspeople of

today's Cranford, five more than we had ever been able to document in past years. Our stories have become longer and more detailed, four or five pages in length, which is double to what they were before. The 2019 Cranford 86 booklet was 56 pages as opposed to just 25 pages in 2018. Our abilities now allow us to conduct more intense research which includes locating and working with the Gold Star Families and friends of our featured heroes. After getting to know the families, we thought we would like to share Cranford's 97-year-old Memorial Day traditions with our new acquaintances and introduce them to the town that our heroes called home. We weren't sure if this might be asking a lot of our mostly out of town connections. But, of the twenty-one Hometown Heroes that we had introduced, to our surprise and delight, eight families replied, YES, they would attend.

One family, the Okells, flew in from Cocoa Beach, Florida and stayed at the Homewood Suites. Alan R. Okell, the son of Alan M. Okell, was born 6 months after his father's death. The senior Okell was a WW2 pilot and flight instructor who died in a plane crash in Tampa Bay, Florida. This would be Alan R. Okell's first trip back to Cranford in 72 years. Alan R. especially appreciated meeting V.F.W. member Art Snyder a pilot himself of the B-26 Widow maker in The Korean War, the same plane Alan M. was piloting on March 13, 1943.

Mike Smith is Joe Minnock's cousin and childhood friend and still tears up at the mention of Joe. Mike joined us, with his mom, to pay tribute to his buddy. Joe Minnock left Hillside Avenue School as a high school sophomore at age 17 and died in Vietnam, one year later, at age 18 three months after his arrival there. Kurt Petschow, Cranford Board of Education President, presented the family with the high school diploma that Joe never returned to Cranford to earn.

Jeanne Ellis, Roger Norton Jr.'s cousin accepted a framed print of the letter that Roger Norton Sr. wrote to the residents of Cranford after his namesake son's death. Roger Norton Jr. was killed in a plane crash off Okinawa in WW2 and his officer's sword, which was gifted to Cranford, was mounted on an oak plaque and patriotically displayed in front of the speakers' platform at Memorial Park.

Bill Hinkle, a Vietnam combat hero himself and member of Cranford VFW Post 335 is the namesake of his uncle, William Hinkle. Bill and his family proudly listened to the details of his uncle's WW2 memoirs. Some of which were never known to them before the Cranford 86 researchers told his story.

Jackie McGarry Gearrick, Gene McGarry's baby sister was in attendance with her daughter Sue Buontempo of the Cranford First Aid Squad. While in flight training in Atlantic City, Gene was known to buzz his ultra-loud WW2 Corsair 4FU fighter over their house at 408 Manor Ave. Eventually the neighbors began to complain, and Cranford police requested him to cease and desist.

John Ashnault joined us to honor his brother Ray, a decorated Vietnam machine gunner. Ray received a Bronze Star with a V for Valor in a firefight where he helped to save his platoon which was under heavy attack. Ray's uncle, cousin, sister-in-law, niece and two nephews were also present at the ceremony.

John Vassallo a ninety-year-old Marine himself was there to honor his brother Nick, a Marine platoon leader. Nick Vassallo was part of multiple amphibious landings throughout WW2. Nick's brother and sister who originally helped us to tell his story in 2018, have since passed away. John still lives here in Cranford.

Delores Benoit and Mary Roberts, Jimmy Roberts' nieces were in the front row wearing the

(continued on page 13)



(above) Mike Smith, Joseph Minnock's cousin and childhood friend and his mom Michaelina receive an honorary diploma from Cranford Board of Education President Kurt Petschow. Joe Minnock left Hillside Avenue School at the end of his sophomore year at the age of 17. He died one year later in Vietnam, three months from the day he arrived there.



(above) Cranford 86 writers Don Sweeney and Stu Rosenthal, with the Okell Family, visit the grave of Hometown Hero Alan M. Okell after the Cranford Memorial Day ceremony. Photo taken at Fairview Cemetery, L-R Pam and Alan R. Okell, Don Sweeney, Stu Rosenthal, granddaughters Tracy Edmonds and Wendy Okell



(above) Alan R. Okell kneels at his father's grave in Westfield. This was his first visit, as he left Cranford for Florida as a toddler



(above) Alan R. Okell's first visit to the street named in his father's honor in Indian Village (Sunny Acres).

GOLD STAR FAMILIES (continued)

USS Canberra commemorative hats that they obtained at family reunions of the WW2 cruiser. This was their second year in our Gold Star Family section.

To properly welcome the large gathering of Gold Star Families, the Cranford 86 project hosted a meet and greet soiree at the Rosenthal family home on the eve of Memorial Day. The families were introduced to Mayor Patrick Giblin and the Cranford 86 members who they had become familiar with during the research of their loved ones. On the morning of the parade, the Gold Star Families were welcomed to the Sullivan home on Central Avenue, adjacent to Memorial Park, before moving to their reserved seats in the park for the ceremony. The families that had never seen our town's Memorial Day service, complimented us on how respectfully Cranford remembers its fallen. To see the parade and ceremony in its entirety, visit Cranford TV35 On Demand at <https://cranfordtv35.viebit.com/> and select the parade link dated May 27, 2019.

After the ceremony ended, many of the families gathered for conversation and refreshments at the VFW's annual after-parade reception. As they left, one by one, they expressed words of thanks for a beautiful day in Cranford. The Okell family asked that our committee escort them to Fairview Cemetery to visit, for the first time, the grave of their father and grandfather, Alan M. Okell. We were glad to oblige because as we had found during our research, the grave was not easy to locate. We lead them there with a flag in hand. On my previous visit, there was no flag by the headstone as is usually customary for veterans. When we approached the grave, I could see that still no flag had been placed and we corrected that. Alan R. knelt and had a moment alone with his hand on his dad's headstone. It was a special moment for

the family. The little hairs on my arm were again telling me, this was one of those moments that we were privileged to be sharing. The OKells then discovered that there were many other family members interred there of which they were unaware. We stayed with them at Fairview for an hour and took many pictures. The family was very thankful.

As we parted company, we gave instructions to Alan Okell on how to find Alan Okell Place, which was the last item on their list before heading back to Florida. From the pictures they shared with us later, we could tell they had another special moment in Indian Village (Sunny Acres). They invited our entire group to stay at their spare apartment in Cocoa Beach at any time. We were feeling like family. I think the Okells left us feeling that Cranford is a great place to live. We think so too.

To receive a Cranford 86, 2019 Volume II, 56-page booklet or to sponsor an upcoming Cranford 86 hero, go to Cranford86.org or call me, Don Sweeney at (908) 272-0876.

Mike Smith, Joseph Minnock's cousin and childhood friend and his mom Michaelina receive an honorary diploma from Cranford Board of Education President Kurt Petschow. Joe Minnock left Hillside Avenue School at the end of his sophomore year at the age of 17. He died one year later in Vietnam, three months from the day he arrived there.

Alan R. Okell kneels at his father's grave in Westfield. This was his first visit, as he left Cranford for Florida as a toddler 72 years ago.

Alan R. Okell's first visit to the street named in his father's honor in Indian Village (Sunny Acres).

Cranford 86 writers Don Sweeney and Stu Rosenthal, with the Okell Family, visit the grave of Hometown Hero Alan M. Okell after the

Cranford Memorial Day ceremony. Photo taken at Fairview Cemetery, L-R Pam and Alan R. Okell, Don Sweeney, Stu Rosenthal, granddaughters Tracy Edmonds and Wendy Okell

The Ashnault family gathered to honor their loved one, Bronze Star with V attachment for valor recipient, Ray Ashnault. L-R cousin Mark, uncle Bill, Ray's brother, John Ashnault and childhood neighbors Carole Hayeck Brown and Fred Hayeck. William Hinkle's banner in background.

On a beautiful Memorial Day morning, over 40 members of Cranford 86 Gold Star Families listen to tributes to their loved ones. Note the uniformed youth groups in the background holding the memorial Gold Star Flags. Look for the Hometown Hero banners lining the pathways in the park. They will be displayed in town year-round.

See also the VFW/Cranford 86 float that was created this year for the parade.



THE CRANFORD 86 56-PAGE BOOKLET AND AWARENESS CAR MAGNET ARE AVAILABLE FOR A DONATION

Please help us to fund our continuing mission to tell the stories and see the faces of all 86 Hometown Heroes.

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or call Don Sweeney at 908-272-0876



(above) On a beautiful Memorial Day morning, over 40 members of Cranford 86 Gold Star Families listen to tributes to their loved ones. Note the uniformed youth groups in the background holding the memorial Gold Star Flags. Look for the Hometown Hero banners lining the pathways in the park. They will be displayed in town year-round. See also the VFW/Cranford 86 float that was created this year for the parade.



(above) The Ashnault family gathered to honor their loved one, Bronze Star with V attachment for valor recipient, Ray Ashnault. L-R cousin Mark, uncle Bill, Ray's brother, John Ashnault and childhood neighbors Carole Hayeck Brown and Fred Hayeck. William Hinkle's banner in background.

MEMORIAL DAY THANK YOU

Stephen Robertazzi, Director of Cranford Recreation & Parks

This letter comes with sincere thanks to all who participated in honoring the men and women who lost their lives while defending our country's freedom. The Township of Cranford has 86 residents who have given their lives for our freedom, and I am proud to say, each and every one of these residents were recognized this year once again, as a flag with their names on a ribbon for each soldier stood proudly at the ceremony.

The Memorial Day Committee members: Master of Ceremonies Barbara Bilger, Lee Blowe, Colonel Andrew Burns, Jay Boxwell, Mark Dingelstedt, Jerry Dobbins, Russ Graham, Elizabeth Mathieu, Heinz Ricken, Chris Sands and the Cranford 86 organizer Don Sweeney.

VFW Post #335: Commander Colonel Andrew Burns, Grand Marshal Lee Blowe, and all of the members of Cranford's VFW Post #335.

Volunteers of the Recreation & Parks Advisory Board: Don Barone, Carolyn Capone-Pugliese, Michelle Cook, Marita Dow and Wally Shackell.

Mayor and Township Committee: Mayor Pat Giblin, Deputy Mayor Ann Dooley, Commissioner Tom Hannen, Commissioner Jean Maisonneuve and Commissioner Mary O'Connor.

Clergy Council: specifically, Reverend Andrew Kruger and Pastor Connie Salerno

The Recreation and Parks Staff: Bill Babkowski, Lori Donnelly, Gerry Fedorchak, Patty Kozlowski, Aaryn Wichelns and Morgan Dow.

Cranford Police Department, Cranford Fire Department, Cranford First Aid Squad Cranford Department of Public Works, Cranford Board of Education, TV 35, Green Thumb Garden Club of Cranford, Cranford Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts and many more.

An extended thanks for the efforts of many other individuals who participated and volunteered their time and energy which made our Memorial Day ceremony a success.

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CALABRIA PIZZERIA, A LOCAL TRADITION, CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Calabria Pizzeria and Catering is proudly celebrating its 50th Anniversary. A fixture on Centennial Avenue in Cranford since 1969, the family-owned and operated restaurant has a host of special events planned to mark the milestone including the unveiling of a newly expanded menu, premiering their line of family recipe signature sauces, and loads of contests and promotions to thank long-time patrons and welcome new customers to enjoy Calabria's "old word taste, local tradition".

When emigrating from Italy as a teenager, Antonio "Tony" Somma brought with him his favorite foods from childhood. Calabria has since used Nonna Somma's Family Recipe marinara as their signature sauce throughout the menu to give everything from pizza to pasta to seafood a rich, distinctive taste. What started as a traditional New Jersey pizzeria, Tony grew Calabria's reputation for the area's best authentic Italian-American cuisine by maintaining the time-honored techniques of the old country, an unwavering commitment to the highest-quality ingredients and friendly, greet-you-by-name service.

A local business in the truest sense, Calabria is woven into the fabric of Cranford with the Somma family having raised their five children in the community they serve. Generations of friends and neighbors share fond memories of countless youth sports teams piling into Calabria to celebrate victories, the household anticipation of "pizza night" while sharing a bit of banter

over the counter at pickup, and all the family occasions big and small marked by mouth-watering chicken parmigiana, creamy baked ziti, sizzling sausage and peppers or whatever your go-to dish is.

Having outgrown the original location by 2006 (where 100 Steps Raw Bar now stands), Calabria moved across the street to 208 Centennial Avenue. The new location saw Gennaro Somma help his father usher in more upscale décor, a wider-range of catering options and white tablecloth-style entrees all while staying true to Calabria's roots as a neighborhood pizzeria.

The Sicilian, Grandma, and Margherita pizzas that customers have long-raved about remain unchanged. As have the hearty made-from-scratch entrées and the array of comfort food options lining the display case to satisfy the quick fix. Whether traditional slices, stromboli rolls, stuffed slices or their daily lunch specials, Calabria's got you covered seven days a week.

"We're proud to serve the community all these years and be Cranford's longest running pizzeria," said Gennaro, who quietly took over for his father in November 2017. "Growing up in town and in the restaurant, tradition is important. I try to honor my family's tradition and at the same time welcome the future."

"People still think I'm the boss," said Tony smiling, who remains a constant at Calabria despite his unofficial retirement, "and I haven't had complaints with the new guy."



(above l-r) Tony Somma passed the tradition of running Calabria Pizza to his son Gennaro.



(above, l-r) Two generations of Calabria Pizzeria, Tony, circa 1989, and Gennaro 2019.



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BRIAN MCAULIFFE, BEE IOSSO AMONG COUNTY'S "UNSUNG HEROES"



(above) Brian

Brian McAuliffe of Cranford, a student in the Work Readiness Academy of the Union County Educational Services Commission, and Blathnaid "Bee" Iosso, a senior at Cranford High School, were among recipients of the 2019 "Unsung Heroes" award, sponsored by the Union County School Boards Association.

The Unsung Heroes program recognizes students who model good citizenship or who

achieve academic success and make outstanding contributions to their schools and communities despite disabilities, language barriers, or other personal and academic challenges.

"Our Unsung Heroes are models of outstanding citizenship and quiet strength, and they inspire their peers and the entire school community," said Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod, New Jersey School Boards Association executive director. "We commend the Union County School Boards Association for honoring these exemplary students."

Josh Bornstein, director of transition services for the Union County ESC, nominated Brian McAuliffe for the award. He cited Brian's participation in Special Olympics, the Shining Stars Network's annual variety show, and internships with the Kean University Athletics Department and several local businesses. "Whether he is greeting his customers or wowing an audience, Brian's smile brings joy to everyone he meets," wrote Bornstein. Brian attended the Cranford Public Schools in first through 12th grade.

Mark Cantagallo, principal of Cranford High

School, nominated Bee Iosso for the Unsung Hero honors. He cited the daily support she provided to her younger brother and sister while her mother faced a serious illness, and noted that Bee, an all-state team gymnast, also had to overcome injuries during the off-season. "Through a difficult situation, Bee has never sought attention for her accomplishments," Cantagallo wrote.

2019 marks the fourth consecutive year that the Union County School Boards Association has sponsored the Unsung Heroes program. In all, 34 Union County high school students were recognized as Unsung Heroes during a special event attended by approximately 200 parents, teachers, school administrators and board members on March 13, 2019, at Union High School.

Brian McAuliffe was recently highlighted in a New Jersey School Boards Association video. He was one of four of Union County's 2019 Unsung Heroes who were the subjects of an NJSBA video series about the program. Information about the four students can be accessed at www.njsba.org/unsung-heroes2019.



(above) Dr. Scott Rubin, superintendent of Cranford Public schools, Bee Iosso, and Mark Cantagallo, Cranford High School principal.
Photo by Cranford Public Schools

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TWO RESIDENTS READY TO ADVOCATE FOR LOCAL FOSTER YOUTH



(above, l-r) Among the newest advocates for Union County's foster youth are Stephen Wells of Westfield, Elizabeth Bennett of Rahway, Marykate La Bau of Cranford, Miozotty Diaz of Roselle Park, Lisa Betz of Summit, Andrea Balbuena of Kearny, Maryann Kaelin of Clark, Judge Richard Wischusen, Daniela Faibes of Mountainside, Hope Mitchell of Watchung, Samiyyah Muhammad of Linden, Sabrina Stein of Towaco, Nisha St. Louis of Irvington, Marcela Tricanico of Elizabeth, Kristin Steinmetz of Mountainside and Patricia Walsh of Cranford.



(above, l-r) Marykate La Bau, Patricia Walsh

Submitted by Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan

Thanks to Marykate La Bau and Patricia Walsh, Cranford was among 13 municipalities represented by the 15 newest court appointed special advocates tasked with serving as extra eyes and ears for family law judges on the cases of Union County youth removed from their home due to abuse, neglect or abandonment and placed in foster homes or residential facilities. The ceremony was held on April 9, 2019 at the Union County Family Courthouse.

La Bau said, "I am ready to help facilitate the best outcome and promise of a brighter future for any child who is a victim of circumstance. Restoring hope for these kids so that they can persevere and thrive is my greatest wish as a CASA."

Walsh added, "I became a CASA because I am passionate about helping children overcome adversity and achieve their full potential."

After completion of approximately 30 hours' training with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County, La Bau, Walsh and their classmates took their oath and were sworn in as advocates and judicial volunteers by Superior Court Judge Richard Wischusen. After completion of three hours' court observation to see seasoned CASA volunteers in action, the new advocates will meet their assigned foster youth or siblings.

The new advocates range from age 23 to 66, are parents and nonparents, and work in such fields as education, nonprofit, and law enforcement, as well as homemakers. Most had no prior knowledge of the foster system.

With court-ordered access to foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, CASA volunteers incorporate their findings into court reports and work to ensure each youth's needs are met and best interests protected. They are a constant during chaos and work to ensure the youth's trauma is not exacerbated in care.

There are approximately 500 Union County youth from birth to age 21 in foster care, and more than 200 are still waiting for their very own CASA volunteer in their corner. Could that be you?

For further details as well as training opportunities, contact Courtney at cgreen@casaofunioncounty.org or 908-293-8136.



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TRYOUTS FOR DEVILFISH SWIM TEAM

The Westfield Area YMCA Devilfish Swim Team will hold tryouts for the 2019-2020 season at the Main Y, 220 Clark Street, Westfield:

Wednesday, June 26th

5:00-5:45pm or 5:45-6:30pm

Thursday, June 27th

6:00-6:45pm

Tuesday, July 16th

5:00-5:45pm or 5:45-6:30pm

The Westfield Area YMCA Devilfish Swim Team is a year-round YMCA and USA swimming program. The season runs from September 9, 2019 – Feb. 28, 2020. The Devilfish provides a total program of competitive training and professional instruction that serves swimmers between the ages of 6 and 18. It is designed to motivate and challenge youngsters to reach individual goals while still enjoying the benefits of a team sport. The team competes in both dual meets and invitational style meets.

Tryouts will have limited spaces available so if you would like to register your child, please visit www.wydevilfish.org to fill out and submit appropriate forms.

For more information, please contact Greg Hatzisavvas at ghatzisavvas@westfieldynj.org.

The Y is the nation's leading nonprofit committed to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Visit westfieldynj.org to learn more about Westfield Area YMCA programs. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify.

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536 PARTICIPANTS FOUGHT TO END CANCER

Submitted by 2019 Leadership Committee

58 teams and 536 people participated in the American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Cranford's 12th annual event on May 17th, 2019, at Hillside Avenue School.

The event raised over \$128,000 to help the American Cancer Society save lives through groundbreaking cancer research, education and risk reduction efforts, and free information and critical services for people with cancer who need them.

"The Cranford Community once again outdid itself, not only with the money raised but with the spirit that was brought to the event", said Paul Skelton, committee member.

The following three teams were recognized for their extraordinary fundraising efforts: Baker's Dozen \$10,227, Cougars Crush Cancer \$9,258, Team Angela \$8,955 and Killcancer \$8,634. Baker's Dozen was a brand new team to Relay lead by Danny Hickey.

Thank you to our Signature Level sponsors: Hallen Construction, MWT Builders, Cranford Jaycees, and Marino's Seafood Restaurant. The Cranford Fire Department once again grilled hamburgers for all participants throughout the event free of charge.

Thank you to our generous local businesses for catering the Survivor Dinner: Perrotti's, Shoprite of Garwood, Starbuck's and Frenchy's Bar & Grill. Many other businesses posted signs for us, donated gift cards or hosted fundraisers over the past six months.

Long time committee member Frank Vito added "One of the best Cranford Relays I've been part of in my 12 years! Everything ran smoothly!"

The committee would like to thank the Superintendent of Cranford Schools, Dr Scott Rubin, the Township committee and the Cranford Police and Fire departments for their continued support.

The Relay For Life movement unites more than 4 million participants across the globe to celebrate people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and take action to finish the fight once and for all. The Cranford Relay For Life event is a community gathering where teams and individuals camp out at Orange Avenue School or Hillside Avenue School and take turns walking or running around a track for twelve hours. Teams raise funds in the months leading up to the event. Cancer survivors are the celebrities of the event and walk the first lap to officially start the Relay.

Entertainment was provided by the Cranford High School Jazz band, Somer Smith, Gina Ricardo, Gianni Vivas and Erin Blake singing the National Anthem. DJ Zach Sheckman kept the music going all night, with the CHS Dance Team performing their annual Relay dance. For the 7th year, Terry Loneker led the whole crowd in a fun, energetic Zumba class.

For more information, to get help, or to join the fight, call us anytime, day or night, at 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org.



(above) The Survivors!

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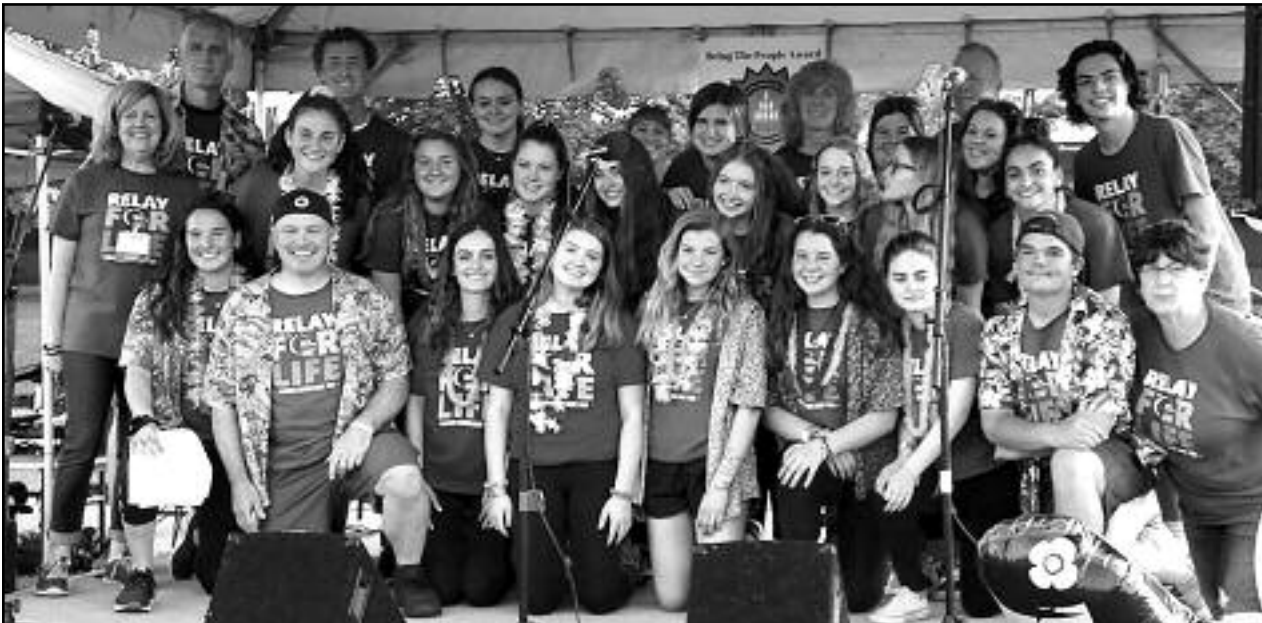


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3RD GRADERS SERVE UP DRINKS FOR A CAUSE

In an effort to help animal shelters in need, Daniella Loffredo and Chloe Collins sold not just lemonade, but four different flavored refreshing drinks on a beautiful spring day. While most customers were inclined to choose lemonade, or the Arnold Palmer drink, some were tempted to try the 'mystery blue drink.' The catch was, you needed to guess its flavor. Happily some guessed correctly. More importantly, through the generosity of friends, neighbors, and kind people, the girls raised a total of \$215 all of which was donated evenly to local animal shelters. Chloe and Daniella have decided to do another event soon. So if you happen to see them stop by and maybe guess the mystery drink while helping a worthwhile cause.



(above) Cranford residents Daniella Loffredo and Chloe Collins raised \$215 for local animal shelters one spring day.

CELEBRATE CRANFORD PHOTO ALBUM

June 9, 2019 was designated "Celebrate Cranford," in honor of Cranford's recent ranking as the top downtown in NJ.

The event featured a Kid Zone, Fit Fest, Music, and Sloppy Joe Eating Contest. The event was sponsored by Downtown Cranford,

Cranford Community Connection, Cranford Jaycees, Cranford Area Chamber of Commerce, Hanson Park Conservancy, Cranford PBA Local 52, Cranford FMBA Local 37, Cranford Newcomers' Club, and the Cranford Municipal Alliance.



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."

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CELEBRATE CRANFORD PHOTO ALBUM

CRANFORD MONTHLY • Page 21 • July 2019



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."

STORY TIME AT HANSON PARK

Please join the Hanson Park Conservancy and the Cranford Public Library for Story Time at the Park! Gather your blankets and chairs and meet us at Hanson Park, 38 Springfield Ave., Cranford as we explore our love of nature and books!

Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at 10 a.m. is Fun in the Garden - garden-themed books with a garden craft (we'll be using dirt and seeds, so remember to wear your play clothes).

Wednesday, July 24, 2019 at 10 a.m. is Turtle Time - turtle-themed books with the appearance of a red-eared slider turtle named Sherman.

Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 10 a.m. is For the Love of Nature! - nature-themed books followed by a nature walk around the park.

Juice and cookies will be provided. This is a free event and recommended for ages 6 and under. No need to register, just show up! In the event of rain, Story Time will be cancelled for the day. For more information please visit our website, hansonparkconservancy.com.



(above) Join the Hanson Park Conservancy and the Cranford Public Library for Story Time at the Park this summer.

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FORTH OF JULY SPECIAL EVENTS

CHARLES PAUL KELLER



Charles Paul Keller, 79-years-old, went home to the Lord on Monday, May 6, 2019, at Rahway Hospital after his valiant 5-month fight with complications from a stroke. His strong will to live, and the love and prayers of family, friends, and many supporters carried him through 5 months of grueling complications in two hospitals. Despite his resounding will to live and numerous efforts by his family and doctors to save him, Charles succumbed to his illness on his and his Wife's 52nd Wedding Anniversary. Charles and Frances were married on May 6, 1967.

Charles is survived by his wife, Frances, his two sons, Charlie (and his wife Yumiko) and Christopher (and his wife Amy) and his grandchildren Alexis, Rocco, and Gemma.

Charles was born on January 10, 1940 in Jersey City, New Jersey to Charles and Emma Keller. The second oldest of 5 children, He is survived by his sister Patricia Ricci, his brother Paul Keller and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his sister Carol Borer and his brother George Miller.

Married for 52 years, Charles and Frances raised their 2 children, Charlie and Christopher in Parsippany and then in Cranford, New Jersey. Charles worked for the Dairy Queen Corporation of New Jersey as a Field Supervisor. He then managed the Dairy Queen in Cranford, NJ and went on to purchase the New Milford Dairy Queen in partnership with his sister Carol and her husband Edward Borer. Charles had a real zest for life and was loved by everyone he met. He always went out of his way to help others. In 1989, Charles accepted a position as a territory manager for A. Panza & Sons in Edison, New Jersey. Charles retired in 2014 at the age of 74.

Charles was a wonderful and loving father, husband and grandfather. He will be dearly missed. Charlie and Christopher feel they were very blessed to have him as their Dad, also known as "Pops".

A Celebration of Charles' life was held on Friday, June 21, 2019, at the Polish Cultural Foundation in Clark, New Jersey.

May He Rest in Eternal Peace.

Cranford will be celebrating our country's birthday this year with two special events.

The first event is the annual fireworks display, which will be held on Tuesday, July 2nd followed by a second celebration, which will take place on Thursday, July 4, 2019.

The July 2nd celebration will be held at Nomahegan Park, Cranford , NJ, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with food vendors, amusement rides and games. The finale will be the fireworks, which will start at 9:15 p.m. Limited parking will be available at Union County College, 1033 Springfield, Ave., Cranford, NJ. However, residents are urged to walk if possible. In the event of cancellation due to inclement weather, there will be no rain date.

The July 4th festivities will begin at 9:00 a.m., with canoe races scheduled at the Cranford Canoe Club, 250 Springfield Ave., Cranford, NJ. Registration at the Canoe Club will be immediately before the races at 8:30am on July 4th.

Also on July 4th, the Jaycees will conduct their Annual Firecracker Run, beginning with a one-mile Fun Run at 8:30 a.m. and a four-miler at 9:00 a.m. at Nomahegan Park, Springfield Ave., Cranford, NJ.

For more info regarding registration and the race, visit cranfordjaycees.com.

For other information, call the Cranford Recreation & Parks Department at (908) 709-7283.

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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
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12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700
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Story Time Stars

Every Monday morning at 10:15
from July 1-August 5.

Families with children ages 3 months-2 years of age.

iDiscover Coding

Learn the basics of coding at the library!

Children in grades 1-3 are able to join.

Tuesday, July 2 or 30 at 6:30 p.m.,

and those in grades 4-6 are welcome on

July 2 from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

"Paws" for Reading

Some furry friends will be lending us a floppy ear on

Tuesday, July 9!

Emerging readers read to certified Therapy Dogs.

Reserve a 10 minute spot from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Story Time at the Clock

This space-themed program is for children ages 3-5,

and will be meeting on

Thursday mornings

from July 11-August 8 at 10:00 a.m.

Stop by Eastman Plaza (by the clock tower downtown)

to participate, no registration required.

Story Time at the Park

Children ages 6 and under and a caregiver

are invited to join us at Hanson Park

on select Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

A garden-themed story time and planting activity

July 10

Some turtle tales

July 24

(with an appearance from a real, live turtle!), and August

7 for a nature story time followed by a nature walk! In

the event of rain, Story Time will be cancelled for the

day. Juice and cookies will be provided.

Sew it! @ the Library

Learn to sew at the library: Ellen Brown will be bringing
a pop-up sewing studio.

Thursday, July 11!

Students entering grades 4-6 can and those entering
grades 6+ can register at eventbrite.com.

Pearl Observatory

Saturday, July 13 at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

The Cranford Public Library will be hosting a visit from

Pearl Observatory. For children ages 4 and up!

Summer Learning Series

The Cranford Public Library will be hosting

weekly family programs at 7:00 p.m.

from July 3-August 7

in the A/V Room of the Community Center as a part of

their annual Summer Reading Program. The library will

host magicians, live animals, STEM storytellers, a

NASA Solar System Ambassador, and more! Tickets are

available in the Children's Department up to two weeks

before each performance.

Out of this World Magic with Steve Woyce

Wednesday, July 3 at 7:00 p.m.!

Steve Woyce is a favorite of the children in Cranford,

find out why at a space-themed family magic show.

Touch the Music

Wednesday, July 10 at 7:00 p.m.

is a wonderfully unique program that teaches children all

about music before letting them get hands-on with some

real life instruments!

Zoom, zoom, zoom & we're off to the moon

with Patrick Garner. Patrick Garner blends science,

magic, humor, and interactive activities to create a

whimsical trip to the moon and back! Join in the fun on

Wednesday, July 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Zoom, zoom, zoom & we're off to the moon

NASA Solar System Ambassador will share their passion
for space with the families of Cranford on

Wednesday, July 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Scienctellers will join us for an action-packed and
educational alien adventure using science experiments
for special effects.

Wednesday, July 31 at 7:00 p.m.

Family Fort Night

Friday, July 19 at 4:45 p.m.

Bring an old sheet or blanket and a pillow—we'll supply
the books—and stay in the library past close to create a

fort to read in! Registration is not required, but be sure to
make it on time... library doors close at 5:00!

Unquiet Library

Every Thursday

Tweens entering grades 4-6 in the fall are welcome to

join us for a special program.

Sewing Workshop

July 11

Create Galaxy Paintings

July 18

(we'll have a limited supply of notebooks and tote bags

to decorate, participants are encouraged to bring their

own materials to paint on,

Have Fun Making Food

July 25.

Space is made available on a first come, first served

Movie Day

Tuesday, July 23 from 3:00-4:45 p.m.

This year's summer reading theme is

"A Universe of Stories!"

We'll be extending the space-themed fun with a

screening of a family friendly movie.



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