

CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ

Published by Renna Media

Issue 70 • September 2019



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CRANFORD PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2019

On Tuesday, August 6, 2019, the Cranford Police Department invited the community to join millions of neighbors across thousands of communities from all fifty states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide for National Night Out. They were joined by Cranford's Fire Department, Rescue Squad, the Union County Prosecutors Office, and other first responders. They held demonstrations for the kids, and allowed them to explore their vehicles and equipment and ask questions.

The event also featured a face painting station, inflatable activities, a DJ, free food and giveaways, and other entertainment.

The "Dunk-A-Cop", an annual fundraiser, raised almost \$700 for Project Home of Cranford. The group also collected canned good for Cranford Family Care. Caren Anne wrote on the group's Facebook page "Thank you so much to everyone that came out to National Night Out and supported our Dunk Tank fundraiser! Very special thanks to D/Sgt. Nazzaro, Officer Handy, Officer Drew, Officer McSharry, Officer Folinusz and Officer Cook who volunteered to be in the dunk tank as well as Detective Jones, Captain Van Bergen, Chief Greco and the many members of the CPD who helped make our event happen."

WHAT IS NATIONAL NIGHT OUT? National Night Out is an annual community building campaign that promotes police community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and

law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Millions of neighbors take part in National Night Out across thousands of communities from all fifty states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide on the first Tuesday in August. Neighborhoods host block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and various other community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel, exhibits and much, much more. For more information visit natw.org.



Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on Cranford Monthly page on facebook.com. Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."

*****ECRWSEDDM*****

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- Non-Emergency Police908-272-2222
- Non-Emergency Fire.....908-709-7360
- Non-Emergency First Aid.....908-272-2222
- Administrator908-709-7205
- Attorney908-709-7200
- Building and Construction.....908-709-7213
- Clerk.....908-709-7210
- Court Administrator908-709-7242
- Downtown Business &
Economic Development908-709-7208
- Library908-709-7272
- Engineer908-709-7219
- Health Inspector.....908-709-7225
- Judge908-709-7242
- Prosecutor908-709-7242
- Public Defender908-709-7242
- Public Works.....908-709-7217
- Recreation & Parks.....908-709-7283
- Recycling908-709-7217
- Registrar.....908-709-7238
- Swim Pool.....908-709-7260
- Tax Assessor.....908-709-7211
- TV 35908-709-3995

SEND US YOUR NEWS

Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (accomplishment, honor, award, etc.). Do you have an event that you need help publicizing? Then send Cranford Monthly your news!

Call: 908-858-4012

Fax: 908-709-9209

Email: editor@rennamedia.com

CRANFORD TOWN WIDE GARAGE SALE – OCT. 5

Project Home of Cranford's annual Town Wide Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2019 rain or shine. This is a great opportunity for residents to clean out items they no longer need, make some cash for themselves and most importantly help support township residents in need.

Those who register for the Town Wide Garage Sale will have the address of their sale and brief description of what they are offering for sale included on the web-site listing that will be posted for shoppers looking to find sale locations.

Mail in registration must be postmarked by September 28, 2019, on-line registration will be available through October 1, 2019.

To participate in the Town Wide Garage Sale registration is available on-line through the Project Home website: cranfordprojecthome.org, or by mailing in the completed registration form, which can also be found on the website or send a note with your name, address, telephone number and brief description of what you are selling, along with a check for \$25 to: Project Home of Cranford, PO Box 724, Cranford, NJ 07016. Note, only your address and what you are selling will be posted to the site for shoppers to see.

For 25 years Project Home of Cranford, a 501(c)3 charity, has been working through Cranford Family Care to keep Cranford families in crisis in their homes. The Town Wide Garage Sale is one of the events that Project Home runs to raise funds for Cranford Family Care.

For questions about the garage sale or to find

out about Project Home and our mission please email us at info@cranfordprojecthome.org, visit us at cranfordprojecthome.org and Like us on Facebook: Project Home Of Cranford.



(above) Project Home of Cranford's annual Town Wide Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2019 rain or shine.

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HELPING HOMELESS VETERANS WITH BACKPACKS FOR LIFE

Submitted by Michael Boll, New Jersey Veterans Network

For the last few years our charity racing team, Operation Rebound, has been sponsored by Backpacks for Life (BFL). This amazing charity is responsible for providing thousands of homeless veterans with backpacks full of essential toiletries and personal items. Also, the BFL will seek out veterans in need and help them with housing, food, employment and any other service that will help them live a better life.

The founder of the BFL, Brett D'Alessandro, is a United States Marine Corps veteran and

started this outstanding charity shortly after he returned home from his tour of duty in Afghanistan. Brett recalls living out of a backpack during the war and felt a backpack can be a life-saving tool. In just a few years, Brett and the BFL are responsible for making thousands of backpacks for our homeless veterans.

The BFL doesn't just do backpacks, they are committed to helping our disabled veterans by providing them with the necessary resources and life-saving services by participating in various health fairs and PTSD groups. The BFL estimates about 350 disabled veterans have benefited from their resources and outreach. The BFL feels it's easy for a veteran to feel lost in the system. There are amazing resources out there, but it can be overwhelming trying to navigate it alone, so the BFL is there to help and guide the veteran through this agonizing process. What makes the BFL special is they invite veterans into their home and help with filling out paperwork, draft resumes, apply for housing, or whatever else is needed to help the veteran.

The future looks bright for the BFL. They're excited to expand their backpacks distribution and reach even more homeless veterans. As they connect with more veterans' organizations across the country, they will equip even more communities with backpacks.

Their mentorship and coaching process will

soon be accessible online. In this exciting development, veterans from across the country will be able to utilize the organization despite their location. Through this growth, the BFL focus remains on bringing hope back into the lives of veterans.

The BFL is out there every day making a difference and the Operation Rebound Racing Team is lucky to be a part of this incredible charity.

If you are interested with helping the Backpacks for Life please visit their website backpacksforlife.org.

For more information about New Jersey Veterans Network visit njvn.org.

ABOUT OPERATION REBOUND

Operation Rebound is a mobile outreach team of mentors who help at-risk veterans and first responders to live a better life. For the last two years, our team has made huge strides with suicide prevention simply by building trust and cementing friendships with people in need. It's most important to be honest with each person in crisis and follow up with ways to help them regain purpose in life. Setting goals motivates them to stay on a positive track. If you are interested with joining the Operation Rebound Racing Team please feel free to contact Michael Boll at mdbollio@optonline.net or call 973-332-1556.



(above) Brett D'Alessandro, Founder of Backpacks for Life

IS IT TIME TO BUY OR SELL?

2019 Year to Date Cranford Real Estate Activity

Average Homes Sold Per Month	21
Average Original Listing Price	\$502,305
Average Sale Price	\$484,357
Average Days on Market	40

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MAYA LAWLER OF CRANFORD NAMED NJCAA ALL-AMERICAN

For the 2018-2019 academic year, Union County College had six student-athletes named All-Americans by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). Yamel Abreu of Union, Chisom and Nwaneka Chinedu of Freehold, Josh Fitts of Roselle, Maya Lawler of Cranford, and Jessica Woods of Linden all had excellent performances in their respective sports to be named to an All-American team, the highest honor awarded to a student-athlete at a community college.

Yamel Abreu, a guard/forward on the women's basketball team, had a spectacular second year. In addition to being named a First Team All-American, she was the NJCAA Region XIX

Division II Player of the Year. She passed her 1000th point mark and averaged 16.7 points per game. She was also named Garden State Athletic Conference (GSAC) Player of the Year Award.

Sisters Chisom and Nwaneka Chinedu were both members of Union's Track and Field team. Chisom was named to the First Team All-American in the 400m hurdles and to the Second Team All-American in the 100m hurdles. Nwaneka was named to the First Team All-American for the high jump. Chisom and Nwaneka are part of a set of triplets and their sister Tochi were all members of the team.

Josh Fitts was also a member of the Track and Field team and was named to the Second Team All-American in the 100m. He received an Honorable Mention placement for his 200m performance.

Maya Lawler, a defender on the women's soccer team, was named a First Team All-American. For a second year she was also named the NJCAA Region XIX Division III Player of the Year. This past season she had 23 points with 10 goals and 3 assists. She helped bring the team to a national third place finish this year. Maya is the first player for a Union team to be named to

an All-American team for two consecutive years. In 2017, she was named to the Second Team All-American.

Jessica Woods, a center for the women's basketball team, joined Yamel and Maya as a First Team All-American. She grabbed her 500th career rebound and averaged a double-double with 14.3 points and 11.7 rebounds per game. For her excellent performance, she was also named to the All-Region Team as a First Team member and to the GSAC Division II All-GSAC team.

"Congratulations to our six All-American student-athletes. We are proud of your achievements," stated Union's President Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin. "By pursuing athletics at the collegiate level, these students have learned about leadership, time management, organizational skills, and how to handle success and adversity with grace and humility. Their experiences at Union County College will help them succeed after graduation in life and in their careers."

For the 2019-2020 academic year, Union has added women's bowling and men's wrestling to its list of NJCAA teams. To learn more about Athletics at Union, go to unionowls.com.



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TRIBUTE AWARD GIVEN TO MONIKA WLODARSKI

Monika Wlodarski, Union Catholic High School Class of 2019, is this year's recipient of the College Women's Club of Cranford's Tribute Award. Monika was nominated for the award which honors the Everyday Hero by her high school guidance counselor, Michael Conte. The award is funded by club member donations accumulated throughout the year in memory or in honor of a special person in their lives. Monika will be attending Seton Hall University in the fall. She has been admitted to the 7-year BS/MD program to become an orthopedic surgeon.



(above) Arline McCloskey, former President of the College Women's Club of Cranford congratulates Monika Wlodarski.

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Realtor and Home Stager

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KEVIN DEACON NAMED NEW HILLSIDE AVENUE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

The Cranford Board of Education is pleased to announce Kevin Deacon as the new principal of Hillside Avenue School. Mr. Deacon, who currently serves as the principal of Livingston Avenue School, will be replacing Dr. Curt Fogas, who is retiring after serving as principal for the past 20 years.

Kevin Deacon began his teaching career as a special education teacher in Queens, New York, at Walter H. Crowley Intermediate School. He taught in an inclusive 7th and 8th grade math class and also served as a replacement 8th grade math teacher. In 2010, Mr. Deacon became assistant principal of the school. Among his many accomplishments, he created an after-school intramurals sports program as a behavior and academic incentive program. During this time he also oversaw the writing of a new math curriculum for the school.

In 2013, Mr. Deacon joined the Cranford community as the assistant principal of Orange Avenue School and then in 2016 he became the principal of Livingston Avenue School. As an

administrator in Cranford, Mr. Deacon has created positive relationships in the school and community. He works with stakeholders to support student needs both academically and social-emotionally. Mr. Deacon supervises the district's Achieve program, which provides additional Math and Language Arts supports, and has worked to create a consistent and data-driven approach. Mr. Deacon is also part of the district's New Jersey Tiered Systems of Supports (NJTSS) committee and is working with this group to develop and employ additional academic supports for students.

Kevin Deacon holds a B.A. in History from Siena College, Loudonville, N.Y. He received a Master of Science in Special Education from Queens College, Queens, N.Y., and received his second Master's degree in School Leadership from Touro College, Manhattan, N.Y.

Mr. Deacon is looking forward to serving the students, staff, parents/guardians, and community of Hillside Avenue School and is extremely excited to be the new principal.

**Mountainside's
Town Wide Garage Sale**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!
SEPTEMBER 21st
9am-2pm
(Rain Date: 9/22)**

**Many Treasures to be found!!
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Fri., Nov. 15, 2019 (6:30-11 pm)
Kenilworth Veterans Center (33 S. 21 Str.)

Featuring The Riddlesbrood Touring Theater Company and some of "Kenilworth's own" officials/residents

Italian Pasta Dinner & Show - Admission \$50
Advance Reservations Required

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CRANFORD'S AUGUST REAL ESTATE MARKETING REPORT *



76

Homes Currently
on the Market



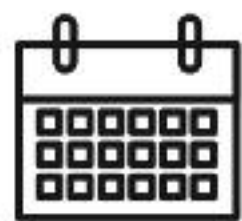
39

Homes Listed



36

Homes Sold in
the Last 30 Days



35

Average Days
on Market

AVERAGE:

List Price **\$464,461**

Sale Price **\$511,077**

Sale Price/List Price:

110%

MP

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*Data provided is as per the Garden State
MLS between 6/15/19-7/15/19

If your home is currently listed with another real estate broker, please disregard this advertisement. It is not our intention to solicit the offerings of other real estate brokers.

OPENING DAY AT THE CRANE-PHILLIPS HOUSE MUSEUM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

The Cranford Historical Society would like to invite the community to the opening day of the Crane-Phillips House Museum. Stop by for a tour on Sunday, September 8 between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

The Museum is open for tours to the public every 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month from September to May. The Museum is also open throughout the year for special events and programs. Check the Society's website at cranfordhistoricalsociety.org for a listing of tour and program dates. The Cranford Historical Society is proud of this living museum of the 1870's showing what life was like without plumbing and electricity. Come out and see for yourself!



K OF C GOLF OUTING – SEPT. 20

Submitted by John J. Doolan

The Cranford Knights of Columbus will be holding our Annual Golf Outing at Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth, NJ on Friday, September 20, 2019. The cost is \$145.00 per Golfer which includes Golf, Golf Cart, Prizes, Lunch and Dinner. There will be a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. with dinner following immediately afterwards at the Kenilworth Knights of Columbus Hall on Market Street.

The Golf Outing proceeds will benefit all of the Council's supported Charities and Programs. In addition, we will be making a special donation to the Shining Stars Network which helps special needs individuals showcase their unique talents

to connect with their communities and the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation which helps injured service members, fallen first responders and Gold Star families with mortgage free homes and other much needed services at their time of need. Both are worthy charities and we hope that we can make a difference for these two great organizations this year with your help and generosity.

For additional information about the Golf Outing, please contact John J. Doolan at 908-451-8947 or via E-mail at jdoolan@verizon.net.

For information about the Cranford Knights of Columbus, please refer to our web site cranfordknights.org.

RECREATION & PARKS FALL & WINTER REGISTRATION BEGINS SEPTEMBER 10TH

The Cranford Recreation & Parks Department would like to announce that registration for Fall and Winter programs begins on Tuesday, September 10th, at 9:00 a.m. Our Fall/Winter brochure, which lists all programs, will be mailed to Cranford residents and may also be viewed on line at cranfordnj.org/recreation-parks or by following us on Facebook at facebook.com/CranfordRecreationAndParks and/or Instagram at instagram.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 accounts 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'S 86: SP5 MARCUS P. ANDERSON, ARMY COMBAT ENGINEER

By Don Sweeney Memorial Day Parade committee and Cranford 86 project member

By Don Sweeney, research by Stu Rosenthal and Bob Lopez, military advice by Vic Bary, proofreading by Janet Ashnault

As our team of researchers continues in our mission to introduce the brave men on our town's memorial tablets, we were intrigued by the story of Marcus Anderson, an Army Combat Engineer. With Marcus's home address of record just doors from Stu Rosenthal's home, it sparked his curiosity and drove him to research the story behind a son of Cranford who grew up in the same environment as his three boys.

In January 1965, America, not yet officially committed to combat involvement, had only 23,000 advisors and observers in South Vietnam; 100 of who were Army Engineers. The fierce fighting nature and passionate determination of the Viet Cong became quickly evident. Their commando style of battle relied heavily on ambush tactics, land mines, and booby traps, hardly ever using conventional tools of war like tanks, armored motor vehicles or aircraft. After an attack on the Marine airbase at Pleiku on February 6, 1965 (see Joseph Minnock's and Gilbert Secor's stories), the US decided to begin sending large conventional ground troop units to South Vietnam. A ground war, it would seem, was inevitable. In a country with few roads, and the terrain being mostly swamps, rice paddies and thick jungle, helicopters were often the only means of moving ground troops from place to place. With the use of the new Air Mobility tactics for transportation of men and equipment, the need to construct airbases and landing zones was a priority early on. When the American architects of war decided that additional forces would be needed to support South Vietnam, they also determined that an expansion of infrastructure, i.e. roads, bridges, and highways was in order.

Not only were Combat Engineers required to clear land for the needed new roads and bridges, but they would also need to clear the roadside vegetation 100 feet or more on each side of them to eliminate the ability of the guerilla soldiers to hide and strike passing convoys. To make their jobs even more treacherous, engineers would need to detect and neutralize thousands of artfully concealed land mines, placed to kill and maim soldiers, which had been present in South Vietnam for decades.

By 1967, Lyndon Johnson's plans for escalation of forces to end the war quickly raised the number of American military personnel in South Vietnam to over 500,000, requiring even more combat and construction hardware. An escalation of road and bridge construction would have to match that growth. To meet that task, 40,000 combat engineers would be required. The job that lay ahead was said by some experts to be impossible. Large numbers of soldiers from non-engineer units were transferred, as well as new recruits to reach these levels. Our Cranford hometown hero Marcus Anderson's enlistment on October 11, 1965 and initial tour of duty in Vietnam paralleled this period.

Marc's parents came to New Jersey in the 40's;



MARC ANDERSON

"Marc" . . . a really neat kid with a personality to match . . . "You know what I like!" . . . favorite subject is Spanish I . . . annoyed by girls who wear curlers downtown . . . best friends are Charlie, Tony, Randy, King . . . can be found in the '53 Merc or at 108 Benjamin St. . . . career undecided.



Marc's Cranford High School Yearbook picture. Evelyn Lawler and Marcus Anderson before the Holy Family "Formal Dance" in 1965. They dated for four years; the only girl Marc ever dated.



Marcus in his dress uniform in 1968 before his second tour for Vietnam.

Grace from Brooklyn and Clarence from the Ozarks. They lived on a farm in Kenilworth and then in Caldwell with Clarence's parents Joe and Beula. They subsequently lived in Elizabeth for a short time where Marc was born on January 2nd, 1947. The family then moved to Cranford, first to 5 Morningside Place and then settling into 37 Dartmouth Road. In 1968, just before Marc's death, they moved to Odessa Florida, near Tampa.

Our researchers found that Marcus was the oldest of four brothers. The remaining brothers had long ago moved out of town. We reached the youngest, Bruce, in Florida. He had little information for us as he was only eight when Marcus died, but did have some great photos to share with us. He was able to connect us with Craig, his older brother, who was thirteen in 1968. We reached him at his home in Austell, Georgia. He gave us a view into Marcus's early life. He explained that his big brother Marc was very protective of his family. He felt that Marcus went into the Army to protect his younger brother Larry, who was 18 months younger than Marc. (Larry died in 2013.) Craig remembers the family communicating with Marc by recordings on a mini reel to reel tape player and receiving word back in the same fashion. Sorry to say he did not have or know the whereabouts of those tapes.

The Army would not allow two brothers from the same family to serve in the same combat zone at the same time. Even after serving one tour, Marcus's protective nature made him sign up for another. We asked Craig if he knew of any close friends or relationships that we could possibly track down to tell us some stories that could help us to know Marcus a little better. He said the only girl that Marcus ever dated was a girl named "Evy" Lawler, but he didn't know what became of her. We were not able to find any Evelyn



(above) Marc was a student at Brookside Place.

Lawler on any of the search engines that we use, figuring she must have married, and not knowing her last name, we felt we had reached a dead end.

Combing through the 1965 Cranford yearbook, we found that Marc was a member of the varsity football team as well as involved in a few clubs. One was the Mask and Bauble theater club; it was nice to see a football player who had an interest in the arts. We thought it was a telling attribute of his character. He was also a sportswriter for the high school newspaper "Spotlight". Continuing our quest to know Marcus we did online searches of the names under the football team's group photo; many addresses were in Cranford. I went on a door knocking tour through town with hopes of finding a friend of our hero. Everyone I found told me how Marcus was a nice guy, but they were never very close to him. One of the stars of the 1965 football team was John Dreyer of Dreyer Farms on Springfield Avenue. He too said Marcus was a nice guy, but he didn't have any further memories. What he did have was a connection that would open a door for us. A door that finally led us to someone who could acquaint us with the personal side of Marcus

(continued on page 15)

SP5 MARCUS P. ANDERSON (Continued)

Anderson.

John's wife, Martha, was close friends back in the sixties with Evelyn Lawler, now Evelyn Dougherty, and was still close with her. Evelyn was widowed several years ago and is living in Scotch Plains. He said he thought she'd speak with us but would ask her before giving us her contact information. He called me back in a few days with her number. We set up an interview for Saturday morning.

Evy showed up at my home with a handful of amazing pictures from the sixties and some memories that she had been refreshing in her mind all week. My writing partner and researcher Stu Rosenthal arrived shortly after and we started to talk about her first boyfriend from 50 years ago – Marc Anderson. Evy told us about meeting Marc, as she called him, at the home of a friend, Paul Buonaguro. Soon they were playing mixed doubles at the clay courts on Springfield Avenue with her girlfriends Nancy Leonard and Martha Frank, now Martha Dreyer, and their friends. Marc had attended Brookside Place School, Orange Avenue Junior High School and then Cranford High School, and Evy attended Saint Michael's Elementary school before attending Holy Family High School in Bayonne. Hence, they never crossed paths at school. In summer, the teens, in rentals from the Canoe Club, would beat the heat by purposely flipping their canoes. She explained that there were no public pools. They would double date at drive-in movies, play pitch and putt golf at Galloping Hill, take day trips to Olympic Park in Irvington for "Dime Day" or visit the Point Pleasant boardwalk. In colder months, watching movies at the Cranford Theater was their favorite pastime. Marc was always the driver in his tan '53 Mercury that he was well known for. I asked, "Always double dates?" She said "Yes, it was safe." as she reflected upon the different era. Evy also remembers watching many a football game, bundled up against the chill, at Memorial Field. After graduating high school, she went to Union College, now UCC, with the plans of becoming a teacher. At this point Marc's plans were not apparent, but it seemed that college was not for him. It took Evy by surprise when Marc announced that he had enlisted in the Army just 6 months after graduation and was shipping out to Fort Dix for basic training. She remembers joining his family to visit him there. Evy remained very close with the Anderson family throughout Marc's enlistment, as they continued with their long-term relationship. Evy, an avid church goer, started attending mass daily when Marc went to Vietnam. She was relieved when he came home safe after his first tour, only to continue her daily anguish when Marc announced he had decided to return to Vietnam for a second tour. She remembered her first boyfriend not being himself upon his return; she told us he was very quiet and kept to himself. Not at all like the sometimes-goofy, lighthearted Marc who departed for service just two years earlier. It happened so fast; she did not even remember much before he was heading back to his unit in

March of '68 for another voluntary tour of duty.

In our interview with Craig he told us that his brother Marc's service was first in a river patrol squadron. Most likely this was as part of the 630th Engineering Company, of which he was a member of for his entire tour of service. There was high demand for the skills of Army Engineers and upon their return to civilian life they were able to obtain well-paying jobs. It would seem Marc might have started a plan for a career after the Army. In a picture we received from brother Bruce; Marc is posing in front of a LARC-V (Light Amphibious Resupply Cargo Vehicle) holding his M-14 rifle. In a brief interview with a comrade from his company, we were told that a combat engineer in-country never let his weapon be out of reach. In the Army combat engineer documentary attached to the online story, it was stated "that they had the tool of their trade in one hand and a weapon of their occupation in the other".

Marc's military record lists many construction projects for which he and his unit were responsible. He was a part of creating several Special Forces camps and extensive work on and around Landing Zone Nancy, a complex helicopter base. His unit was also very active in the creation of Route 555, known to all as "The Street Without Joy", a major thoroughfare the likes of which had never been seen in South Vietnam. On August 6, 1968, Marc was working on constructing a highway through a swampy area in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam. In the PBS documentary "Vietnam" Episode 8, it is mentioned that Quang Ngai was among the most notorious regions for land mines. "A soldier could be said to have courage for just taking a step in the fields of Quang Ngai." While in the process of grading the highway, a passing vehicle struck a covered land mine. Tragically, the resulting explosion killed Marc instantly. He was just 21 years old and two months short of discharge. Stu Rosenthal uncovered an Army quarterly operational report dated October 31st, 1968 that was declassified in 1980. Statements in the 21 page "Operational Support, Lessons Learned" document tell of problems that were hindering the mine detection devices for this mission. Vic Bary, our military advisor, explained that the Army periodically required these types of reports. It seemed that the rainy season weather had rendered 15 of the 40 mine sweeping devices unusable. The lack of trained technicians and spare parts had left the unit short of the necessary tools to properly detect the hidden explosive devices. Our additional research also documented two other soldiers, one of them from Marc's unit, who died in similar fashion, in a two-week period, in the same region. A simple off-handed recommendation to keep more spare parts was suggested for the future.

We asked Craig Anderson if he remembered the moment when he heard of his brother's passing. He said "Of course, you never forget a moment like that." On a day when their Florida home was filled with the entire family including grandparents, a pair of soldiers in full dress

uniforms walked the long path from the street to their front door and everyone knew what it meant. Then he choked up and the phone went silent for a moment that seemed much longer. He continued to say it was the only time he saw his father cry; then another moment of silence. No more needed to be said. We changed the subject.

We also asked Evy if she remembered that moment. She said "Of course, it was devastating. My mother came home from work early to break the news to me. I was in a state of disbelief." We asked if they ever spoke of getting married after he returned. Her answer once again triggered those little hairs on my forearm to stand up like they have so many times during the interviews that I have conducted with family members of our heroes. She said after her dad died a letter to him from Marcus was found. In it, Marc stated that upon his return he would ask Evy to marry him. Like so many plans that our young Cranford 86 heroes had made, they never had the chance to see them through. For me it is the saddest thread that runs through each of the stories told so far.

Marc's body was returned home where services were held at the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, followed by a burial with full military honors at Graceland Cemetery in Kenilworth. Bruce Anderson has named his son in memory of his brother Marcus. The Anderson family is making plans to come to Cranford in 2020 to attend our Memorial Day service in which Marc's Hometown Hero banner will be dedicated.

SP5 Marcus Peter Anderson was an American patriot. He left his beloved town at the young age of 18 to answer his country's call to service. It is our honor to profile the life of such a brave young man who represents the many Army Engineers who lost their lives working outside the spotlight, providing the structure necessary to allow our country to support and defend free countries worldwide. By war's end 1,500 Army Combat Engineers had made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

Visit our website Cranford86.org for YouTube links and additional pictures. If you have information about any of our Cranford 86 heroes, please contact us at info@cranford86.org. The Cranford86 Memorial Day booklets featuring the stories of 21 of the Cranford 86 are still available.

(More photos on page 16)



Marcus's government issued bronze grave marker at Graceland Cemetery. We trimmed back the grass that had partially covered it and vowed to the family, now in Florida, to return to maintain the landscaping.

SP5 MARCUS P. ANDERSON (Continued)



Marcus with Mom Grace before 1950



Outside his Hooch, Marc poses with an unknown woman. Local people were many times used to help with housekeeping and laundry. This may have been the "house girl".



Marc and his M-14 rifle in front of a LARC-V. A LARC vehicle is a hybrid boat and dump truck that is used in swamp construction.



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Cranford's 1965 football team. Marcus and John Dreyer are highlighted.

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CENTENNIAL VILLAGE GROUP'S 12TH ANNUAL MUSICFEST

On Saturday, September 14, 2019, the Centennial Village Group will be holding its 12th MusicFest outside of Lincoln School, 132 Thomas Street, in Cranford, NJ. The event begins at 4 p.m., with music and festivities lasting until 9 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are graciously accepted.

Bring your lawn chair and enjoy an evening of fun family entertainment, featuring live music from local artists. In addition to musical entertainment, there will be a 50/50 raffle, Tricky Tray with items from local Cranford shops, and face painting for kids. Food from local vendors will be available for purchase. Stop by to try your luck with the Tricky Tray and enjoy an afternoon of great music, food, and time with neighbors at this event celebrating what Cranford has to offer. All proceeds will go towards helping Centennial Village Group's beautification efforts in the area.

The Centennial Village Group is made up of volunteers dedicated to the revitalization and beautification of the Centennial Village area in

Cranford. In addition to MusicFest, the group holds an annual 5K race to raise funds for its continual efforts to improve the community.

For more information about the Centennial Village and the group, visit facebook.com/CentennialVillageGroup.

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CRANFORD'S CHRIS TOBIN BECOMES ADVOCATE FOR FOSTER YOUTH - JUDGE WISCHUSEN ADMINISTERS OATH TO NEW CASAS



(above) Chris Tobin of Cranford joined Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County as an advocate for foster youth.

Submitted by Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan

Chris Tobin of Cranford is among the latest community volunteers to successfully train as advocates for Union County youth removed from home due to abuse or neglect, and now living in foster care. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County is the only organization serving as extra eyes and ears for family law judges in an effort to protect best interests and ensure needs are met.

As Tobin and his classmates arrived at the courthouse, Judge Richard Wischusen continued his practice of exiting his courtroom to greet and speak with the waiting volunteers. Later, while on the bench during the ceremony, he commended each for their commitment to the community's fragile child victims, and discussed the value of the CASA program to those children and case stakeholders, noting he always reads the CASA report and seeks their input during hearings.

Volunteers with varied backgrounds make successful advocates and this class, ages 24 to

71, is no exception. Each brings diverse experiences, including an adoptee, an adoptive parent, former military, immigrants, nonparents and parents, retirees, full- and part-time employees, and undergraduate and graduate students. Professional backgrounds include education, retail, nonprofit, information technology and academia. Most had no prior knowledge of the foster system.

The final step before meeting their assigned foster youth is observation of seasoned CASA volunteers in court. Once assigned to the case, a court order grants access to the child, foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, enabling advocates to make informed recommendations in the child's best interests.

There are approximately 500 Union County youth from birth to age 21 in foster care, and more than 200 are waiting for a CASA volunteer. Is that you?

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(above, l-r) Joining Judge Richard Wischusen, center, are Union County's newest child advocates. They are Lisa Riley of Elizabeth, Anuja Bhamere of Berkeley Heights, Diane McCurdy of Mountainside, Adrian Lobo of Westfield, Guitry Banks of Jamesburg, Magdiel Rubiano of Elizabeth, Chris Tobin of Cranford, Victoria Utoh of Union and Karen Villareal of Scotch Plains. Not pictured, Beth Rudnick of Westfield.

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THE ROCK OPERA CHESS WILL OPEN CDC THEATRE'S 102ND SEASON

The 2020-2021 season at CDC Theatre in Cranford will open with the complex rock opera Chess, with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus of ABBA fame. In the musical the ancient game becomes a metaphor for romantic rivalries, competitive gamesmanship, super-power politics and international intrigues.

The pawns in the drama form a love triangle: the loutish American chess star, the earnest Russian champion and the Hungarian American female assistant who arrives at the match with the American but falls for the Russian. From Bangkok to Budapest, the players, lovers, politicians and spies manipulate and are manipulated to the pulse of a monumental rock score that includes the international pop hits "One Night in Bangkok" and "I Know Him So Well".

"In addition to Chess being one of the most beautiful musical scores ever written, what excites me about the show is that it is at once a historical representation of the Cold War and a very timely exploration of US/Russia political relations given present day tensions.", said director Edgar Hidalgo. "CDC Theatre is producing the original London stage version of Chess, with the addition of "Someone Else's Story" from the Broadway production. We are excited to be presenting Chess in association with the New Jersey City University (NJCU). Students and alumni of NJCU are represented on-stage and in the orchestra, and the university's musical theatre and music departments are providing support in other areas of the production."

Information on how to get tickets can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org, with the best selections and prices available on-line.



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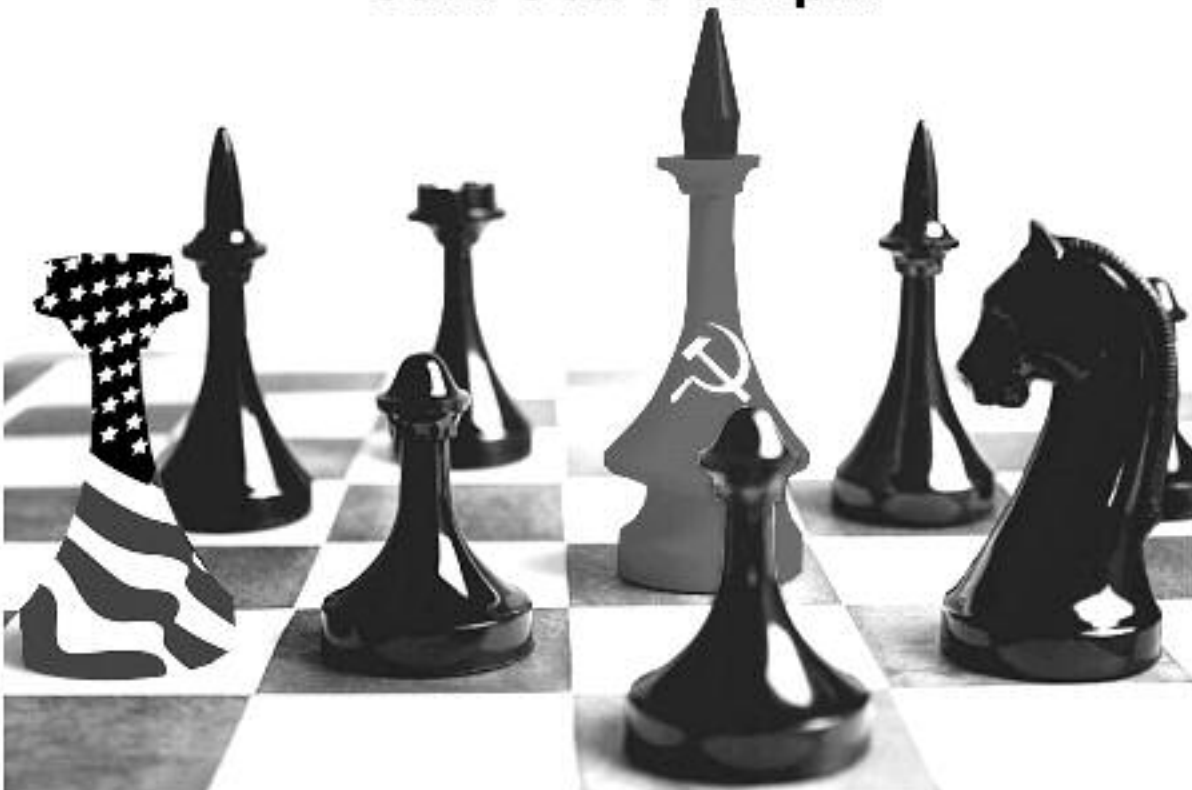
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On Sunday, September 15th, 2019, the Cranford Honorary PBA Local 52 will hold a Cornhole Tournament/BBQ Fundraiser at 2:00 p.m. at the Garwood Columbian Club; 37 South Avenue; Garwood, NJ. Rain Date will be September 22nd.

There are limited spots available and no spots can be reserved without full payment. If you are a single player and in need of a playing partner, we will try to pair you up.

The cost to play is \$30 which includes food, entry and cash prizes to the winners. For non-players, the cost is \$15, and soda and water are included for all with a cash bar available as well. Each team will play a minimum of 2 games in a double elimination tournament format.

Payments can be made at the Garwood Columbian after 4:00 p.m. during the week or call Don at 908-482-9949 for payments, questions or additional information.

When arriving, please do not park in the parking lot, you can park in the street close to the Club or across the Street from the Club on South Avenue in the Super Fresh lot.

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Project Home of Cranford will be hosting their annual 5K Monster Dash on Sunday October 27, 2019 in Nomahegan Park starting at 9:30 a.m. and a 1-Mile Family Fun Run starting at 9:00 a.m. Runners and walkers are welcomed to run or walk in costume. There will also be a collection of non-perishable foods at the race to help stock the Cranford Family Care pantry.

Cranford families in need. For over 30 years Project Home of Cranford, a 501(c)3 charity has been working through Cranford Family Care to keep Cranford families in their homes during times of financial crisis.

Free t-shirt to all those who register by October 7, 2019. For registration and race information, visit our web-site: projecthomeofcranford.org.

To help defray the cost of this event we are looking for local businesses interested in being sponsors. If you would like to become a sponsor or donor or just find out more about Project Home and our mission please email us projecthomeofcranford@gmail.com, visit our website projecthomeofcranford.org or join our Facebook Group, Project Home of Cranford.

All profits from the event will go to help Cranford Family Care, a local charity that assists

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CRANFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY'S FALL 2019 FAMILY PROGRAMS

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Hour: Monday to Wednesday, 10:00a.m. to 9:00p.m., Thursday and Friday, 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m., and Saturday, 10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.

Fall programming will be bringing people together around a craft or skill. We're calling the initiative "Crafting Community," and local businesses and organizations will be joining us to lead workshops.

Books and Cooks

grades 2-4: New series! Children in grades 2-4 are welcome to join us for a fun cooking class from 3:30-5:00 p.m.

on the second Tuesday of each month.

Registration is required. All of our recipes are nut free, please call us as soon as possible to notify us of any other allergies. Join us on September 10 when we read the book Stone Soup and create a recipe centered on the story! On October 8, we'll be reading How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World!

On November 12, we'll read The Story of the Milky Way: A Cherokee Tale!

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Paws for Reading

Some furry friends will be lending us a floppy ear! Emerging readers are invited to hone their reading skills by reading to certified Therapy Dogs. Participants reserve a 10 minute spot from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

on Tuesday, September 9.

Registration is required and can be done two weeks before each event. Can't make this session? We'll be offering this program on

October 8 and November 12,

Mindful Family with Alluem Yoga

for families with children ages 5+: Summer is over, school is back in session, and things can get stressful quickly!

Join us on Friday, September 13 to de-stress at a relaxing after-hours program.

Join us at 6:00 p.m.

to participate in a variety of stations designed to encourage mindfulness, and stick around as Alluem Yoga leads a family yoga class. Space is limited. This free program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Paint and Sip (Juice) with the Artist Framer
grades 4+: Learn the basics of color theory and create a beautiful painting! This free 1.5 hour workshop will acquaint artists of all skill levels with the basics of mixing colors and using acrylic paints. The talented Stefanie Lalor of Artist Framer will lead this wonderful class.

We have 30 spots open in this class, 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 14.

Advance registration is not required. This program is sponsored by the Union County Freeholders and is part of a new community initiative, called "Crafting Community," that will be running at the Cranford Public Library through the fall. Visit us online to see a full calendar of events!

Story Time with Fire Me up Studio

We're so excited to have Fire me Up Studio leading two special story times for children ages 3-6. Join us on

October 11 at 11:00 a.m.

to create art inspired by the book

The Pout-Pout Fish or on

October 18 at 11:00 a.m.

to read Bark, George and paint a ceramic dog of your own! Advance registration is required.

Both programs will be held at Fire me up studio, located in Cranford. This program is sponsored by the Union County Freeholders and is part of a new community initiative, called "Crafting Community," that will be running through the fall.

Visit us online to see a full calendar of events!

Sew it @ the Library

Planet Pillows, ages 9-12: We're thrilled to be welcoming Ms. Ellen and her portable sewing studio back to the library! Tweens ages 9-12 are invited to learn the basics of sewing before creating a planet pillow. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library, registration is required and can be done at eventbrite.com/e/sew-it-the-library-with-ellen-brown-tickets-65954071403.

Pendant Workshop with Annealed Studio
grades 4-6: Annealed Studio will be leading students in grades 4-6 in creating pendant necklaces on Saturday, October 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Each participant will leave with the necklace that they have created, registration is required.

Register online by visiting eventbrite.com/e/pendant-workshop-with-annealed-studio-tickets-67241791007. This free program is made possible by a grant from the Union County Freeholders and is part of a new community initiative, called "Crafting Community," which will be running at the Cranford Public Library through the fall. Visit us online to see a full calendar of events!

Local author visit with Kristina Kozak

Local author Kristina Kozak will be sharing her book, The Travels of Adventurous Alexander and Relentless Russell: Dominican Republic. Children will listen to a story and then create a travel guide of their own.

Saturday, October 12 from 2:00-2:45 p.m.

Register online at eventbrite.com/e/local-author-visit-with-kristina-kozak-tickets-66228656695.

Succulent planting with The Garden Club of Cranford

Join the Garden Club of Cranford on October 22 at 4:30 p.m.

to learn all about plants, and then plant a succulent of your own to bring home! Register online by visiting eventbrite.com/e/succulent-planting-with-the-garden-club-of-cranford-ages-4-tickets-67246741815. This program is sponsored by the Union County Freeholders and is part of a new community initiative, called "Crafting Community," that will be running at the Cranford Public Library through the fall. Visit us online to see a full calendar of events!

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THEATER PROJECT TO VISIT LIBRARY

The Theater Project will present a staged, script-in-hand reading of new comedy Death Club, including a discussion between the audience and playwright Stephanie Griffin, on Saturday, September 7, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. in the Cranford Community Center.

The Theater Project is an acclaimed professional theater group and the winner of two New Jersey Tony Awards. Learn more about them at www.thetheaterproject.org. Admission is free and all are welcome. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.

"THE MAKING OF JIMI HENDRIX" AT LIBRARY

Learn about one of America's greatest guitarists from a leading local music expert in "The Making of Jimi Hendrix," at the Cranford Community Center on Monday, September 9, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame describes Jimi Hendrix as "arguably the greatest instrumentalist in the history of rock music." Hendrix expanded the range and vocabulary of the electric guitar into areas no musician had ever ventured before. Travel with

Sixties Rock Historian Vinnie Bruno along Jimi's road to superstardom: beginning with his early days as a band member on the Chiltin' Circuit, to the launch of the Jimi Hendrix Experience in London, to his electrifying performances at Monterey Pop Festival and Woodstock, and to his final recordings at Electric Lady Studio.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.

CRANFORD COLLEGE WOMEN'S CLUB'S ANNUAL PORCH PARTY

Our annual porch party will be held on September 5, 2019 at 7 p.m. The party is the first event of the new club year and is a casual evening of fun and friendship on one of Cranford's beautiful porches. Women, who are Cranford residents and college graduates, are welcome to attend the party to meet current club members and enjoy delicious food and beverages.

Our first regular meeting will be on October 14, 2019 at the First Presbyterian Church, with social time starting at 7 p.m. and our featured program at 8 p.m. Prospective members and other guests are

always welcome at our regular meetings, To RSVP for the party email cranfordcollegeclub@gmail.com, call (908) 858-3423, or visit collegewomenscranford.com.

CUB SCOUT OPEN HOUSE

Friday, September 13th, 7:00 – 8:30 PM,

Cranford United Methodist Church, 201 Lincoln Ave E, Cranford, NJ 07016

Pack 75 welcomes all families in the Cranford area to attend their fall open house. Join us to learn more about the program and the opportunity to register as members.

Cub Scouts is a year-round family-oriented program of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). It open to both girls and boys in kindergarten through 5th grades. Pack 75 is a non-denominational unit that has members from all Cranford elementary schools.

Prospective Scouting families can participate in activities as a family. Some examples of these activities include weekend and summer camping, field trips, fishing, hiking, museum sleepovers and community service. Benefits of Scouting include character development, team building, and personal fitness.

For more information, visit our website at: <http://www.cubpack75.com/>

To join now, visit BeAScout.org.



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Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 7, 2019. We will be having our Home for Good Dog Rescue summer music festival event – WoofStock! At Hartley Farms Polo Field, 9 Hartley Farms Rd, Morristown, NJ. This is Home for Good's largest adoption day of the year and is great fun for the whole family. This event is pet-friendly, so be sure to bring your HFG alum to visit!

We will be having live music from the amazing band Brian Kirk & The Jirks as well as food trucks, craft vendors, beer and wine, K-9 contests, prize raffles, dog and family photoshoots by the talented Jennifer Mount Photography. And of course dog adoptions!

This event is a great place to bring your Home for Good rescue pup for a reunion with other HFG rescue dogs as well as meet the fosters who care for so many dogs.

We would love for you to be part of this fun event at Hartley Farms Polo Field in Morristown,

New Jersey.

Gates open at 11 a.m. Activities start: 12 noon. Music: 12 noon – 4 p.m.

Tickets on sale now at: HomeforGoodDogs.org \$25 in advance. \$30 at the gate. \$12 for children 12 and under.



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ST. JOSEPH SOCIAL CENTER ANNUAL FUNDRAISING RAFFLE DINNER

St. Joseph Social Center invites the community to their Annual Fundraising Raffle Dinner to be held on October 17, 2019 at the Westwood in Garwood.

(above) Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark will be the guest speaker.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark, will be the event's guest speaker.

The Grand Raffle will be for 3 cash prizes: \$7,500, \$1,500, and \$1,000. Only 2,500 tickets will be sold so please get your tickets early!

The Tricky Tray and Restaurant Baskets will be better than ever. The evening at 6:30 p.m. so you have more time to "shop" and mingle!

Your support of this crucial fundraiser supports existing food, health, counseling, job training, clothing, and seasonal programs.

To purchase dinner tickets, sponsorships, or make a donation, please visit sjeliz.org/special-events.

Since 1983, St. Joseph's has served the materially poor and homeless community of greater Elizabeth, New Jersey, by providing basic human needs such as food, clothing and medications, as well as a wide range of services and programs to help them acquire the material goods and social services they need to live with integrity. St. Joseph's is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.



(above) Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark will be the guest speaker.



MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Cranford World Trade Center Memorial Committee and the Cranford Clergy Council will be hosting a 9/11 Memorial Service on

**WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 11TH
AT 6:30 P.M.**

CRANFORD'S WTC PARK
at Springfield and North Union
Avenues in Cranford

This event will honor those that lost their lives in the September 11th attacks including family, friends, first responders and all that were affected by this tragedy. All are welcome. In case of inclement weather, the service will take place at the First Presbyterian Church across the street from the park.

For more information, please contact
**Dottie Baniewicz @
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CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH TO HOST "CLIMATE FAIR" FOCUSING ON TAKING CARE OF GOD'S EARTH



(above) A reusable shopping bag will be distributed to everyone who turns in 25 plastic shopping bags for recycling.



On Sunday, September 15, 2019, Calvary Lutheran Church in Cranford will host a Climate Fair from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The fair will focus on "Taking Care of God's Earth" and will feature ways everyone can take action to protect the planet on which we live. Activities planned include a used shoe collection (especially athletic shoes) for Soles4Souls, building compost boxes and hands-on learning activities for young children. Calvary will also give a reusable shopping bag to everyone who turns in 25 plastic shopping bags for recycling.

The Climate Fair is Calvary's way of engaging in service work on "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday, a day set aside by the Evangelical

Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) for members to make a positive change in their community and share God's love. Calvary is just one of nearly 9,100 congregations participating in this special day of service.

More information on the September 15th Climate Fair can be found on the church's website, calvarycranford.com.

Calvary Lutheran Church is located at 108 Eastman Street in Cranford. For more information about our congregation and opportunities to worship call the office at 908-276-2418 or go to calvarycranford.com. More information about the ELCA is available at ELCA.org.

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UPCOMING EVENTS - SEPTEMBER

Business Networking in the Park

Wednesday - September 18th

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Hanson Park

38 Springfield Ave., Cranford

Appetizers - Beverages - Games

Come and enjoy an evening in Hanson Park

Member \$15 - Non-Members \$20

RSVP: cranfordchamber@comcast.net

or call 908 272 6114

Rain date: Thursday September 19th

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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Satori Academy
ServPro of Central Union County
Simply
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The Cranford Hotel
The Gourment Deli
The Mane Event
The Porch Salon
The Thirsty Turtle
Umpro
United Fire Protection
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