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BEGIN THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE



(above, l-r) The Bailey family is getting ready for Christmas at CDC Theatre. Ben Bouffard as George Bailey, Rachel Zuckerman as Mary, Geovanna Ayala is Tammy, Olivia Kelly is Janie and Katia Bergstrom-Shaw is Zuzu.

The fully staged version of the classic holiday movie *It's A Wonderful Life*, adapted by Philip Grecian, will bring George Bailey, his family, friends and the town of Bedford Falls to life on the CDC Theatre stage beginning December 6, 2019. Located at 78 Winans Ave., in Cranford, NJ the theatre is celebrating its 101st season.

The beloved Everyman, George Bailey, who had dreams of adventure and travel has given his entire life to his community, only to have it unravel through the machinations of the selfish banker Mr. Potter. In his despair, George questions whether it would have been better had he never been born. Clarence, a befuddled angel who hasn't earned his wings yet, arrives to show him exactly what this wish might really mean.

When asked what inspired him to return to direct at CDC Theatre, Maurice Moran responded "I have always loved the movie version of this story – and the play follows that script very well – because I think it is important that we stop

and take stock of our lives now and then. How did we get from there to here? Who changed our lives by a word or work? And more importantly, whose lives have we touched along the way? And, keeping that in mind, how do we continue to affect people we meet? When my parents passed away, I was comforted by those who attended the funerals, illustrating how much these two people touched so many lives from so many walks of life. And I thought, wouldn't it have been nice for them to see that, too? George gets to see that and discovers that we all make a difference on this earth."

Boasting a large cast that ranges from 8 to 80, including a children's chorus of carolers singing holiday favorites, *It's A Wonderful Life* is a great way to usher in the holiday season! Running from December 6-15, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. with 2 p.m. matinees on December 8,14,15.

Ticket and group sales information can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org.

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Cranford Area Chamber of Commerce NOVEMBER HOLIDAY 2019 EVENTS CALENDAR



Friday, November 29th

Morning Holiday Events

Events held at North Union & Springfield Ave. Gazebo

- 11:00am: Daisies Tree Decorating
- 11:30am: Brownies Tree Decorating
- 12:00pm: Jr. & Sr. Cadets Tree Decorating
- 1:00pm: Tree will be ready for display

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✿ Evening Events ✿

- 4:00pm - 5:00pm: The Celebration Singers
The Shining Stars
- 5:00pm - 6:00pm: Cranford High School
Madrigal and Brass Ensemble
- 6:00pm: Santa Arrives to Light our Holiday Tree
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BRIGADIER GENERAL CHRYSTAL TO SPEAK AT CRANFORD VFW VETERANS BREAKFAST

Submitted by Jim D’Arcy, Former Post Commander

Cranford VFW Post #335 has announced that the time and date of their annual Veterans Day Breakfast will be Sunday, November 10, 2019, 9 a.m. at the VFW Post Home at 479 South Ave., in Cranford. The featured speaker this year will be Scotch Plains resident Brigadier General Edward Chrystal.

This is a free “sit down” breakfast open to any and all area veterans. Local and state officials as well as Cranford students will be among those addressing the veterans at this highly popular event.

Featured speaker, Brigadier General Edward Chrystal, currently serves as the Land Component Commander, New Jersey Army National Guard. General Chrystal is responsible for the welfare, training and readiness of over 5,000 soldiers in New Jersey. He also currently serves as the Superintendent of Veterans Haven North, a transitional home for homeless veterans in Glen Gardner, NJ. He is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, being awarded a Bronze Star Service Medal and the Global War on Terror Service Medal, among others.

There is no reservation required for this free breakfast which has been one of the most important and highly attended events on the

Cranford VFW’s annual calendar. The meal is prepared by members of the Post Auxiliary and served by local boy and girl scout members.



(above) Brigadier General Edward Chrystal will be the featured speaker at the Cranford VFW’s annual Veterans Day Breakfast.

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POLICE CAMPAIGN TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Submitted by Detective Lieutenant Edward R. Davenport

The Township of Cranford will kick off another month-long Street Smart NJ campaign in November to raise awareness of pedestrian safety ahead of daylight savings time ending, as the potential for pedestrian-involved crashes increases and darkness falls earlier.

The campaign is a collaborative effort between the Township of Cranford, EZ Ride Transportation Management Association and the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), which coordinates the Street Smart NJ program. The Cranford Police Department will be enforcing pedestrian-related laws and working with Township officials and the school district to educate everyone about safe driving and walking practices.

“We rarely are more vulnerable than when walking in suburban areas, crossing busy streets and negotiating traffic. And we all are pedestrians from time to time, so it's important to pay attention to what is going on around us,” Cranford Police Chief Ryan Greco said. He added, “We can’t stress enough that we need drivers to obey speed limits and stop for pedestrians in crosswalks. If we follow the campaign’s simple safety reminders — stopping for pedestrians, using crosswalks, putting down the phone and obeying traffic laws — we can

save lives and prevent crashes.”

Pedestrian safety is an ongoing challenge in New Jersey. In 2017, 184 pedestrians died as a result of pedestrian- vehicle crashes, according to the most recent data available from the New Jersey State Police. From 2013 through 2017, 825 pedestrians were killed on New Jersey’s roads (NJSP). During that time, more than 22,000 people were injured. This translates into one death every 2 days and 12 injuries daily.

“I commend the Cranford Police Department and Township on implementing our Street Smart NJ initiative,” said Union County Freeholder Angel Estrada, who also serves as Chair of the NJTPA Board of Trustees. “The more communities that join our pedestrian safety program, the more we can educate people about safe driving and walking practices. Campaigns like Cranford’s are helping to make Union County a safer place to live, work and visit.”

More than 80 communities have participated in Street Smart NJ since the campaign’s inception in 2013, and the campaigns have had a positive impact. An analysis of campaigns conducted by the NJTPA in 2016 found a 40 percent reduction in drivers failing to stop for pedestrians and a 28 percent reduction in pedestrians crossing mid-block or against the

signal.

“This campaign is about changing behaviors and saving lives and we’ve seen some great successes,” said NJTPA Executive Director Mary Ameen. “Working together on these campaigns we can make a difference and help reduce pedestrian fatalities and injuries in our state.”

The intersection of Walnut Avenue and Chestnut Street will be a focus of the campaign. The Cranford Police Department Traffic Bureau will conduct pre-campaign observations at the intersection and will return to the intersection for post-campaign observations after the Police Department concludes its education and enforcement activities. Throughout the campaign, street signs, posters, safety tip cards, coasters and cup sleeves will be on display in the township. “Cranford is excited to participate in Street Smart NJ to help make our streets safer for everyone,” said Cranford Mayor Patrick Giblin. “Pedestrian safety is also good for our local economy. When people feel safe, they are more likely to walk around our business district, visiting our restaurants and local shops.”

To learn more about the initiative, please contact the Cranford Police Traffic Bureau at 908-709-7335.



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On Friday, September 20, 2019, the Cranford Knights of Columbus held their 15th Annual Golf Outing at the Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth. 77 Golfers attended and helped raise funds for our Worthy Charities.

At the October General Meeting, the Council donated \$5,000 to the Shining Stars Network, which is an organization that creates platforms for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities to build self-esteem and friendships through the performing arts and inclusive events.

The Cranford Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Fraternal Organization dedicated to our Four Core Principles, Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. The Cranford Council supports many charities and civic causes locally, state-wide and nationally and is committed to being a viable part of our Community. For information about joining the Council, please contact Membership Chair John Caprio at 732-306-5634 or visit cranfordknights.org.



(above) Pictured presenting the check are Grand Knight Jim Feehan, Deputy Grand Jerry Conheeney, Golf Chair John Doolan and Sally and Mike Curci, who founded the Shining Stars Network along with some Shining Stars members.



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"A FEAST OF AMERICAN MUSIC," A SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT CONCERT

Submitted by Maureen Monroe

From colonial days to the present time, from the north, south, east and west, comes the music made in America and shared throughout the world. The Musical Club of Westfield is proud to announce its biennial Scholarship Benefit Concert, A Feast of American Music. This red, white and blue musical event, produced by Kay Macrae, will give thanks for the many cultures and talented people that have made American music unique. American quilts and bunting will decorate the scene; renowned Americans from history will accompany the artists.

Please join us at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm Street, in Westfield. Starting at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 24, Eric Deutchman and Debra Biderman will entertain the early arrivals with American favorites on accordion and fiddle. At 3:00, patriotic music by Robert Strauss and Rachel Markowitz, piccolos, signals the beginning of the concert. Alto Kim Gorman and pianist Joe Elefante continue with folk

songs from colonial days. Fiddle music brings forward dancers for the Virginia Reel as called by Mistress of Ceremonies Elsa Hahn.

Next the spiritual heart of American music will come from the Sanctuary Choir of the First Seventh-Day Adventist Church of Newark; gospel chorales surround pianist Helen Ryba's performance of the nineteenth century spirituals captured in Florence's Price's sonata. Dr. John Wargacki intones the poetry of Walt Whitman's "I Hear America Singing."

After intermission, the Florian Schantz combo will offer selections of Dixieland jazz, followed by modern jazz elements with clarinetist Chris Dellarso and pianist Mary Beth McFall. Chris also provides the clarinet introduction to Rhapsody in Blue played by pianist Carolle-Ann Mochernuk. Soprano Cynthia Sacco interprets Gershwin's Summertime. Joe Elefante returns to deliver a piano medley from Oklahoma! Soprano and bass-baritone Drude and Glen Crane join the entire ensemble in the finale This Land is Your

Land.

As always, the after-concert reception to meet the artists will be a highlight of the afternoon. The reception, designed and coordinated by Magaly Docabo and Maryann Dolling, captures the spirit of an historic country harvest. Everyone is invited to sample the all-American delicacies.

The concert ticket donation of \$10 supports the Musical Club's college scholarships for talented Union County students majoring in music performance, composition, education, theater and therapy. The concert is made possible in part by a 2019 HEART (History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands) grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

For information about the concert or the Musical Club, please consult the website musicalclubofwestfield.org, email musicalclubofwestfield@gmail.com, or telephone 908-654-1036 or 571-262-9113.

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Scholarship Donation: \$10 a ticket

This arts program is made possible in part by a 2019 HEART (History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands) Grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

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TIN CAN SAILOR, SEAMAN FIRST CLASS FRIEND BURTON

By Don Sweeney, research by Stu Rosenthal, military guidance by Vic Bary, proofreading by Janet Ashnault

The news of the December 7th, 1941 surprise attack on Pearl Harbor stunned every American. One could only imagine how a young junior at Cranford High School would have reacted to the headlines, and that is how our story begins. Many high school juniors and seniors that were planning for college or considering life's other options during this fateful time, suddenly opted for military service as a career choice. It would seem that this is what happened with seventeen year old Friend Burton of 29 Elizabeth Avenue in Cranford. While still in high school, he would enlist in the US Navy in December, and be sent to Rhode Island for basic training in February of his senior year. He was able to return to Cranford in June to sign yearbooks and receive his diploma with the class of 1943, before once again shipping out to serve our country in its time of need.

After advanced training in Boston, Friend was assigned to the newly commissioned USS Braine DD-630, a Fletcher Class destroyer named in honor of Rear Admiral Daniel L. Braine, a Civil War Naval hero from Brooklyn, NY. Being a member of her inaugural crew, this designated Friend to be what is known as a "plank owner" of the Braine. After a cruise to Maine to test out the mechanics of the new vessel, the Braine was ordered to the Pacific theater in early August of 1943. Heading south around Cape Hatteras they encountered a violent hurricane, that over the course of two days, nearly capsized the ship. It was a baptism by fire for the new sailors. Needing repairs after the storm, they stopped in Trinidad before passing through the Panama Canal. The Braine continued north to San Francisco before being assigned to be part of a task group escorting troop ships to Pearl Harbor. When they arrived there, the reality of war must have surely hit home, as the crew stood on deck at attention, in stunned silence as they passed the sunken remains of the USS Arizona.

In Pearl Harbor, five battleships had been sunk or badly damaged along with three cruisers, three



Friend Burton, one of Americas Greatest Generation. He had the courage and character to voluntarily step up to the unimaginable experience of fighting in a World War. We can only imagine what life may have had in store for him, had he survived the attack on his ship on the morning of May 27th, 1945.

destroyers and numerous smaller vessels. Luckily, none of the three Pacific aircraft carriers were at port that morning. The blind-sided attack awakened a sleeping giant and U.S. manufacturing went into high gear and amazed the world with its preparations for retaliation. From 1941 to 1944, The United States would launch 24 battleships, 36 aircraft carriers, and an incredible 178 destroyers. Battleships and aircraft carriers had crews numbering close to 2000 and each destroyer was manned by approximately 300. To man these ships alone, more than 200,000 sailors would be needed, and many more as well in total, in order to wage war against the Japanese Imperial Navy. Not only were the ships

fully manned, most were overcrowded. America's youth had heard the call to service and answered it.

Originally known as a torpedo boat destroyer, the destroyer was first designed by the Spanish Navy and created to combat torpedo armed submarines. Destroyers evolved through the 20th century to defend naval task groups, namely aircraft carriers, battleships and cruisers. They were built with relatively thin metal skin which made them lightweight, fast and maneuverable. Because of their light weight, they sat very high in the water, making them hard to be hit with torpedoes. This thin skin, however, made destroyers very vulnerable when they were hit, adding an extra degree of danger for those who served on this type of vessel. Equipped with depth charges, torpedoes, and anti-aircraft guns as well as lethal cannons, destroyers were able to provide defense against submarines, as well as other torpedo carrying offensive attackers, including torpedoes launched from aircraft. Their thin skin is what gave the destroyer the nickname of "Tin Can", and its crew members were called "Tin Can Sailors". It was said by sailors that, if being on a battleship or carrier was like living in a big city, being on a destroyer was like living in a small town. Everyone knew each other and there was a brotherhood between its men.

Cranford 86 researcher Stu Rosenthal located Friend's nephew, Nick Falzarano, living in Union. Nick shared with us an interview that he had done in 1991 with Hugh Lewis, a handling room attendant who had served with his uncle on the Braine. This information gave us a feel for what day to day life was like aboard a destroyer. When the crew was called to general quarters, or

(continued on page 11)



(above) Friend Burton in his dress whites, with sister Mary. Friend was able to get home for R&R in the summer of '44 while his ship was in California for repairs.



(above) Young Friend Burton with his dog. His family said he was named after a Dr. Friend. We could not confirm the relationship with the family. The Brooklyn based family moved to Cranford 4 years after Friend's birth in 1925 or 1926.

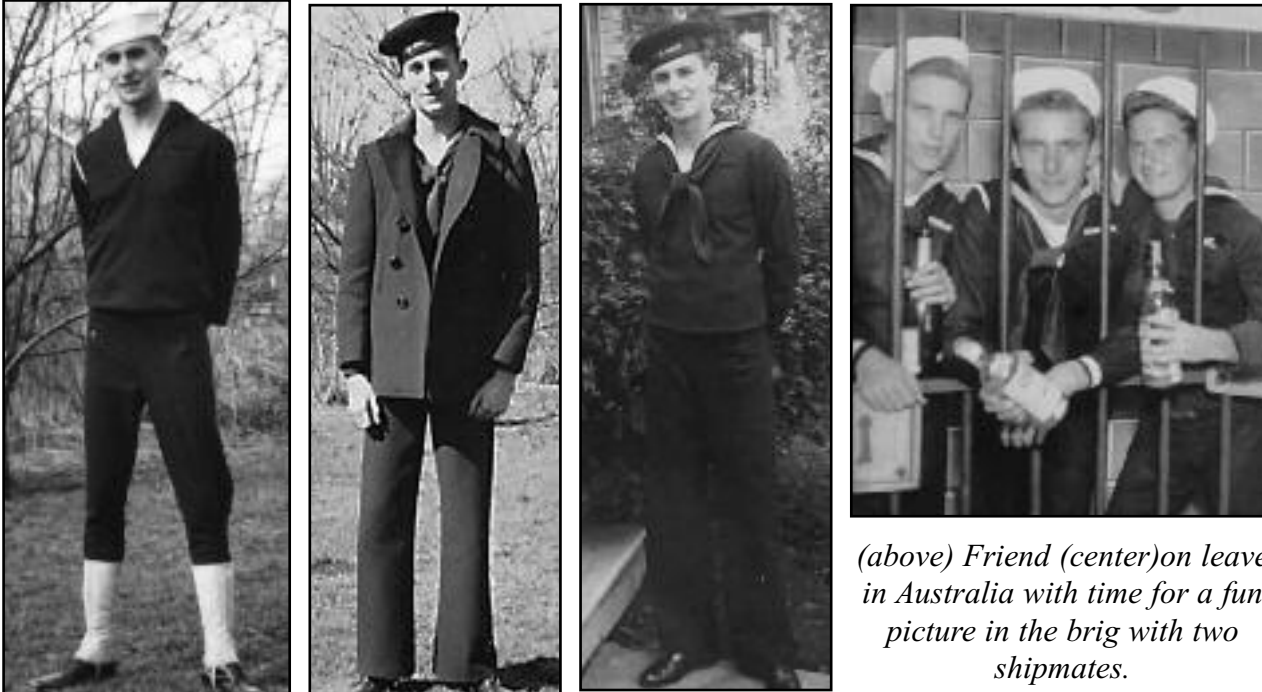


(above) Next to dad's 1937 Chevy. A very popular sedan of the era. Friend and sister Mary have a little winter fun in front of 29 Elizabeth Avenue.



The Golden C, Cranford High School's yearbook He was known to his friends as Burt and that's how he signed his photo in the "Golden C". Although Friend started his high school life at St. Benedict's in Newark he finished it at Cranford HS and graduated with the Class of '43. In answer the yearbook query of "Future:", more than 50% of the young men in this class responded Service, Army, Navy or Air Corps.

FRIEND BURTON (continued from page 10)



(above) Friend (center) on leave in Australia with time for a fun picture in the brig with two shipmates.

(above, l-r) "A tall man with a quiet way", Seaman First-Class Friend J. Burton in his "undress blues" and the traditional sailor cap, Friend, in his peacoat and the hat., Friend in front of his home at 29 Elizabeth Avenue while on leave in the summer of 1944.

battle stations, everyone immediately manned the specific job that they were there to perform. Seaman First Class Burton was assigned to the "handling room" for gun #2. This 10-foot square room was beneath the deck that supported the gun turret. In it, three men would provide the munitions to the long-range, 5-inch cannons. One would place the 58-pound shell on a conveyor that would lift it to the gunners. The powder cans that served to propel the shells were 5 inches in diameter and 40 inches long. These were handed up through a hole in the deck by the second man. The third man wore headphones and was in communication with the gunners. He would manage the operation and provide backup if needed. As a Seaman First Class, when not at general quarters, Friend Burton would also have been assigned many mundane, but essential tasks, from kitchen help to daily cleaning and ship maintenance.

The Allied forces employed an "island hopping" strategy, bypassing many Japanese occupied islands, and selecting atolls and islands that held resources critical to the war effort. Many times, these islands contained an airfield that was launching attacks against Allied forces. Sometimes an island was targeted because it had the location and geographic characteristics suitable to building new airfields. While aircraft carriers offered a home for fighter planes, land-based airstrips were needed to accommodate large bombers and transport planes.

From Australia to the Philippines, the Marianas and Solomon Islands, the USS Braine had a long list of violent encounters in its two years of action in the South Pacific, and Friend Burton was a part of each one. A few of the battles are highlighted below. Visit Cranford86.org for the Braine's entire chronological list of encounters.

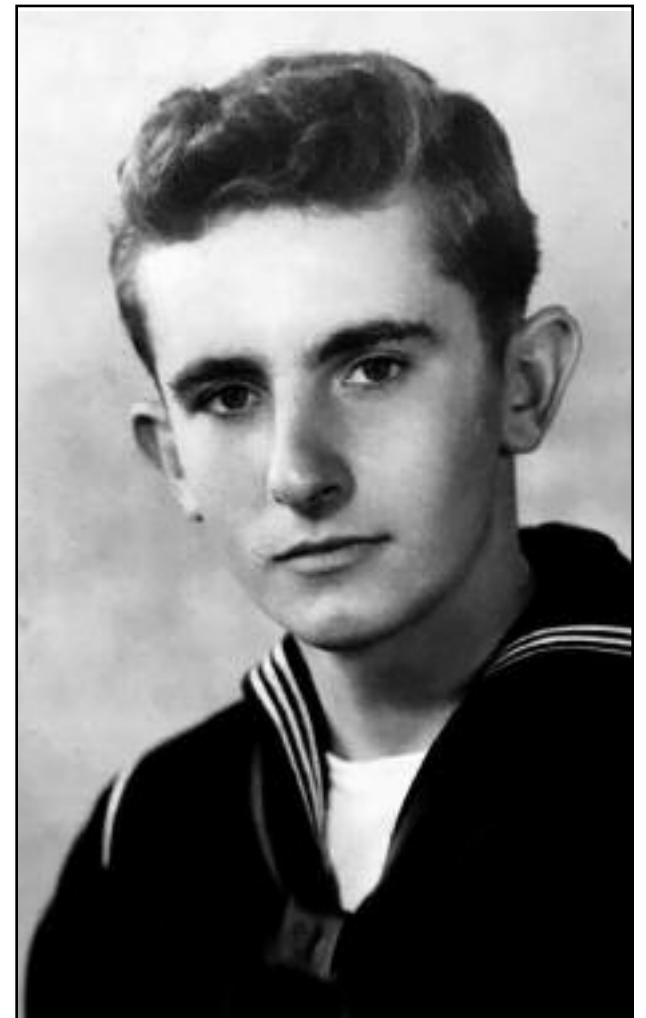
On June 14th, 1944 the Braine participated in a shore bombardment of Tinian in the Mariana Islands. While the enemy was silenced, during the encounter the Braine was hit by a 4.7-inch

shell causing 20 casualties, 3 of whom were killed in action. The following day she broke off from the battleship group and was ordered to Guam and then back to Pearl Harbor via the Eniwetok Atoll for repairs from damage received in the attack. (see Paul Sjurson's story on Cranford86.org) A pleasant surprise came when repairs could not be completed in Hawaii, and the Braine was ordered to San Pedro, California for a month in dry dock. It was during this period that Friend returned to Cranford for R&R.

On August 21st, 1944 the Braine headed back to Pearl Harbor as an escort for the battleship South Dakota. From there her fight continued, the Philippines, Manus Islands, New Guinea, Leyte and Palau. While escorting troop transport ships to Minduro, in the Philippines on December 15th, 1944 she encountered her first suicide plane. The crew was successful in repulsing the attack and the "flying bomb" fell 200 yards short of the ship's fantail. The first recorded kamikaze attack in WWII was on October 13th, 1944 and they began to occur with escalating frequency thereafter. Zealot pilots were sacrificing their lives for the emperor, who they believed to be a supreme being. Defending our ships in the South Pacific from these suicide dive bombers became a new priority and new defense protocols would need to be created. (see the stories of James Roberts and Howard Goodman at Cranford86.org)

On the moonless night of January 7th, 1945, while serving with two other destroyers, the Braine's radar system detected an enemy vessel about 60 miles west of Manila. An incendiary flare was fired that illuminated the ship in the distance and it was identified as a Japanese destroyer. The enemy ship was shelled and "sent to the bottom".

In May, the Braine was ordered to join Destroyer Squadron 51 off Okinawa, the smallest and least populated of the five main islands of Japan. Its successful capture would give the allies the airbases needed to attack the mainland of



Seaman First Class Friend Joaquim (although he always used Joseph) Burton



(above, l-r) Present day photo of Friend's cap, it was part of the personal effects that were returned to the family after his death. Present day photo of Friend's uniform cap. The cap has been offered to The Cranford 86 Project by Dr. Friend Burton. We hope to have it displayed as part of the Memorial Day ceremony in which Friend's banner will be dedicated.

Japan. The Battle of Okinawa would become one of the longest battles in history, with Allied forces in a ferocious clash against fanatical warriors who were known for their fight to the death mentality, now amplified by the fact that they were defending their home soil.

A new defensive tactic to protect the fleet from the suicide bombers was now in place. It was called Radar Pickets, and was first fully implemented at the battle of Okinawa. Similar to a picket fence, fifteen radar stations were set up surrounding the island. Each station was to have two or more destroyers equipped with new high-tech electronics, several LCS, swift landing crafts (known as mighty midgets, pallbearers or little boys) and two Corsair or P-47 fighter planes above.

On May 25th the Braine and its crew of 325 along with the USS Anthony relieved the USS Bennion at Radar Picket Station 5. The Bennion and its companion destroyer had shot down four kamikaze attackers the night before. On the 26th the Braine and the Anthony both shot down attacking planes and more attacks were expected.

(continued on page 12)

FRIEND BURTON (continued from page 11)

The following accounts are a mixture of facts from the second by second declassified report written by the Braine's commanding officer, Captain W.W. Fitts, and a variety of eyewitness interviews that were published by the Navy. Some segments are from Nick Falzarano's interview with Hugh Lewis. Many of the accounts are graphic and may be hard to read by some.

On the morning of May 27th at 6:00 AM, the two Corsair patrol planes returned to base due to extremely poor visibility. At 7:30 AM three unidentified planes were spotted 25 miles away on radar. General quarters were called. At 7:34 AM a plane, identified as an Aichi D3A (known to the allies as a "Val"), dropped from a low hanging cloud 3 miles away. It approached the



A 48-star American flag that was part of Friend's personal effects, it is marked "Mare Island 1942".

(see inset) This was the San Francisco naval shipyard that the Braine stopped at on its first voyage. From the look of it, it was may have flown on the Braine through many of the battles that happened in the two years at sea. We were unable to confirm situation that caused it to be given to the family of Friend Burton after his death. If only a flag could talk. This one has some stories to tell.

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Anthony, which was about 1000 yards from the Braine. Both destroyers were cruising in tandem at 20 knots. All guns on both ships were targeting the Val and it was fired upon. Flames and smoke came from the plane as it was hit. Even while flaming, the suicide pilot guided the plane, strafing above the waves and striking the Braine. The Val came down straight across the bow and into gun turret #1, shearing its wings off and plowing directly into handling room #2, where Friend Burton was manning his battle station position. A 500-pound bomb on a delayed timer exploded 30 seconds after impact which set the Braine ablaze. Hugh Lewis, from his position on an anti-aircraft 40mm gun just above gun turret #2, saw the plane coming when it was 30 feet away and was able to avoid the impact and explosion. His accounts describe seeing the pilot in the cockpit seemingly already dead as he finished his mission. Hugh described the plane as a very old, canvas stretched WW1 style plane, conflicting with official reports that it was a Val.

Within a minute, another plane hit, carrying another 500-pound bomb. It was described as being even worse, if that could be possible. A huge smokestack was knocked right off the ship into the ocean. Utter horror ensued, many crew members were thrown overboard, and it seemed that everything was on fire. Only one small hose was available to fight the raging inferno. Captain Fitts, in a last second attempt to avoid the approaching plane, had called for full right rudder at flank speed. With the command center completely destroyed the full throttle and rudder position could not be altered. This caused the 376-foot ship to swing around in a clumsy, violent loop in the water. The captain ordered an abandon ship. The wounded started to be lowered into the water with buoyancy devices accompanied by healthy shipmates. To make the situation worse, the erratic circular actions of the ship became an imminent danger to the floating sailors. Eyewitnesses said the water had turned red and this attracted yet new attackers in the form of sharks. Sailors on board were using rifles and anti-aircraft guns to kill the attacking sharks before they could reach their shipmates. Some said that in this incident, more sailors were killed by sharks than by the Japanese. It took an hour to bring the ship under control, and another for the Anthony and the LCS's to extinguish the fires. By noon, 40 men who went into the ocean were classified as missing, Cranford's Friend J. Burton was among them. In all, 67 men were classified as killed in action and over 100 wounded, all within two minutes. It was the highest casualty rate of any destroyer in the war that did not sink. The crew of the USS Anthony filmed much of the episode, from the kamikaze strike to the firefighting assistance that it and LCS 86 had provided. See that film at Cranford86.org. Many Silver and Bronze Stars were awarded by President Truman to crew members of the USS Anthony and the crew of LCS 86, as well as numerous other commendations for both rescuing crafts and their crews.

On June 22nd, 1945, after a grueling 2 months and 3 weeks, the Allied forces were victorious in

capturing Okinawa. Heavy losses made this a bittersweet victory. By the battle's end, incredulously, 36 ships were sunk, 12 of them destroyers. The Americans bore over 49,000 casualties including 12,520 killed. It was planned that Okinawa's Kadena Air Base would be the launching point of the air invasion on mainland Japan. That attack would never happen.

After three weeks of preliminary repair, the USS Braine was ordered home for a complete overhaul. On August 6th, 1945, two years to the day from her departure, she arrived back in Boston Harbor. On the same day, halfway around the world, an earthshaking event was taking place. The first atomic bomb was being dropped on Hiroshima, followed two days later by another at Nagasaki. A few days after that, on August 14th, the war was over.

After two years of dedicated service in the South Pacific that contributed to the victory of the Allied forces, Seaman First Class Friend Joseph Burton died and was lost at sea at the young age of 20. At home in Cranford, a high mass was offered for him at St. Michael's Church where he had been an altar boy and also attended school. He left a grieving family behind which included his mom and dad, John and Brenda Burton, as well as a sister Mary, age 27 and a brother Kenneth age 36.

This "tall man with a quiet way" as quoted from his high school yearbook, bravely stepped out of the normality of life as a high school student to serve our country when it was needed most. There should be no question why he and his comrades are referred to as the Greatest Generation, in answering the call of duty, they altered history and basically saved the world from tyranny. Friend J. Burton was an American patriot, one of our Cranford 86, and has earned our undying gratitude.

The husband of Kenneth Burton's daughter Catherine, Nick Falzarano, had been inspired to research the history of his wife's uncle, our WWII hero. Nick's additions to our story were priceless. Kenneth Burton named his oldest son Friend in honor of his brother. We located Dr. Friend Burton, age 71, a psychotherapist in New York. He shared with us the contents of a box of artifacts that were returned to the family after his uncle's death. We are very grateful that the Burtons have plans to join us on Memorial Day for the dedication of their uncle's banner.

Special thanks to Dan DeWeever, a resident of Elizabeth Avenue. Not only did the DeWeever family sponsor the banner of the serviceman that played on the same street as their children, but Dan also performed expert research uncovering the narrated 16mm movie that was filmed from the USS Anthony. That was a real find and an invaluable addition to our story.

For this story we were blessed with an amazing selection of pictures, movies and artifacts from Friend's two years on the USS Braine. Visit Cranford86.org to see them all. If you have any information about any of our Cranford 86 or would like to sponsor a hero that may have a connection to please contact us at info@cranford86.org.

JAYCEES SUPPORT SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

CRANFORD MONTHLY • Page 13 • November 2019

Submitted by Andrew Feldman

The Cranford Jaycees recently presented checks totaling \$9,200 to the Union County Educational Services Commission (UCESC) and to the Cranford Public Schools Special Services Department (via the CFEE).

The proceeds were raised from the Jaycees' annual summer golf outing, where more than 125 golfers and several generous sponsors came together for these important causes supporting students with special needs.

The UCESC operates a Work Readiness

Academy providing educational and vocational skills training programs for Union County youth (ages 16-21) with various disabilities, including Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down Syndrome, and other intellectual impairments.

The Cranford Public Schools Public Special Services Department plans to utilize the funds for updated curriculum and resources to support additional social skills instruction for students across the district.

The Jaycees would like to thank all of our great sponsors, including the outing's Masters level sponsor Brighton Air Corp, a residential and commercial heating and cooling company dedicated to providing cost-effective energy solutions. Please save the date for next year's golf outing to be held on Friday, June 26, 2020.



(above and right) The Cranford Jaycees recently presented checks totaling \$9,200 to the Union County Educational Services Commission (UCESC) and to the Cranford Public Schools Special Services Department (via the CFEE).



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NOVEMBER EVENTS AT THE CRANFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Cranford Historical Society invites the public to the various events coming up in the month of November. To celebrate the upcoming Veteran's Day holiday, the Society will have a Veteran's Day Display on Sunday, November 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Hanson House, 38 Springfield Avenue. Stop by the Hanson House to see a display of artifacts, uniforms, etc. and join us in honoring all the brave men and women who fought to protect our country.

One of the Society's largest fundraisers, the Annual Holiday Boutique/Garage Sale Fundraiser, will take place on Saturday, November 16 and Sunday, November 17, also at The Hanson House, 38 Springfield Avenue. The hours of the boutique are: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. New and gently used holiday merchandise will be available for sale. This event is an opportunity to buy interesting decorations and ornaments for your home as well as some unusual items. We hope you will come

by to support this fundraiser event and do some early holiday shopping. This fundraising event will help the Cranford Historical Society, the Crane-Phillips House Museum and our History Scholarship Fund.

To close out the month, The Cranford Historical Society invites children ages 4 to 7 for a special Thanksgiving program at the Crane-Phillips House Museum on Sunday, November 24 at 2 p.m. Children will listen to stories about Thanksgiving and will make a Thanksgiving wreath to take home. Cookies and juice will be served. The Crane-Phillips House Museum is located at 124 N. Union Avenue. The program is free and all are welcome. Please RSVP to the Cranford Historical Society by phone at: 908-276-0082 or by email at: cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net.

For any questions, please call the Society's office at 908-276-0082 or visit our website at cranfordhistoricalsociety.com.

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WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

CRANFORD MONTHLY • Page 15 • November 2019

Families were encouraged to walk to school on Friday, October 4, 2019, for the annual Brookside Place School (BPS) Walk to School Day. Before the school day began, members of the Cranford Police Department (CPD) came out to support the effort and Sgt. Perrotta spoke about pedestrian

and bicycle safety. Safe walking and bicycling to school will reduce crashes, enables children to incorporate regular physical activity and healthy habits, reduces vehicle congestion in and around school grounds, and encourages independence in children, Sgt. Perrotta said.



(above) Students of BPS and Principal Michael Klimko (pictured back row, second from left) with CPD officers: School Resource Officer, Detective Siessel, Sgt. Perrotta, Ptl. Donnerstag, Ptl. Drew, and Sgt. Toy.

“WHO IS THAT AT MY FEEDER?”

Calling all bird lovers! Please join the Hanson Park Conservancy on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cranford Community Center for the presentation, “Who Is That At My Feeder?” Pete Axelrod from Wild Birds Unlimited of Scotch Plains will discuss how attracting birds is a great way to bring us closer to nature while offering hours of enjoyment. This program will introduce us to the birds that commonly come to backyard feeders and how to distinguish between very similar species. He will also discuss unusual birds that have appeared this season. Birds add another dimension to the artistry of a garden with their striking colors, behaviors and allure of their songs!

Pete has been a nature enthusiast since the age of five. His passion led him to study Wildlife Biology and Natural History Interpretation. Pete has volunteered in avian population studies, wild bird rehabilitation, habitat restoration, wildlife education and birding ventures throughout New Jersey (with NJ Audubon, Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and The Raptor Trust). He enjoys cycling, kayaking and hiking and always has his binoculars handy!

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

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

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GIRL SCOUTS ASSIST IN FLAG RETIREMENT

Submitted by Kerry Rokicki

The Girl Scouts of Cranford Service Unit 48 were pleased to assist in a flag retirement ceremony on Saturday, September 7, 2019 held at Post Office Plaza Park. The event, which was coordinated by Cranford VFW Post 335, also included representatives from local Boy Scout troops, the Cranford Police Department, the Cranford Fire Department, and other local dignitaries including the Mayor. During the ceremony Girl Scouts spoke about the history of the flag and rituals related to its care and retirement. Protocol requires worn flags to be retired through incineration by an authorized organization.

Girl Scouts from various stages of scouting including Daisies, Brownies, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors participated in the ceremony

and proudly represented Troop 40113, Troop 40480, Troop 40583, Troop 40951, Troop 40098, Troop 40624, Troop 40706, Troop 40541, Troop 40826, and Troop 40042.

This is the fourth year that the Cranford Girl Scouts have supported this solemn and special event designed to recognize and commemorate one of our most honored national symbols.

The Girl Scouts of Cranford boasts over 1,164 Girl Scout Members in 71 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 Girls Scouts of Cranford, please visit cranfordgirlscouts.com.



(above) Girl Scouts spoke about the history of the flag and rituals related to its care and retirement. This is the fourth year that the Cranford Girl Scouts have supported this solemn and special event designed to recognize and commemorate one of our most honored national symbols.



(above) Girl Scouts from Daisies up to Ambassadors participated in the flag retirement ceremony.

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CRANFORD'S 2019 SCARECROW STROLL PHOTO ALBUM ONLINE

CRANFORD MONTHLY • Page 17 • November 2019

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com
and on the Cranford Monthly page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/cranfordmonthly)
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CRANFORD'S GREAT PUMPKIN CARVE OUT

Jersey Central Art Studio is a group of artists and citizens dedicated to raising awareness of the arts and the artistic process as well as integrating the arts into the community through education. With support from the Cranford Jaycees, JCAS hosted the sixth annual 2019 Great Pumpkin Carve Out on Saturday, October 19th, 2019 at Hanson Park where visitors were invited to stroll along the pumpkin lighted garden paths to see the carved pumpkins on display, each on its own pedestal. In addition, a big screen outdoor movie was shown featuring the classic, Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein.

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com
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 Event is being presented by the Kenilworth Historical Society to benefit the Oswald J. Nitschke House Museum Project.



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RUBBER DUCK RACE SUCCESS!

Submitted by Linda Livelli

On Sunday, October 13, 2019, Hanson Park Conservancy held their 9th Annual Duck Race at Sperry Park in Cranford, NJ. It was a beautiful fall day and kids and adults alike had a wonderful time. Rubber Duck Race organizers launched 1,500 ducks over the water falls and the crowd went crazy as the ducks made their way to the finish line. Cranford's own Bernie Wagenblast was on hand to "call the race" and keep the crowd excited.

Duck #3844 was the first duck to cross the finish line and Rich Rosenberg went home with Prize # 1, a \$250 gift card. Duck #8148 was the 2nd to cross the finish line and Lizzie Willey was the winner of a Cranford Canoe Club Adventure Day Prize package. The third-place duck # 4061 belonged to Judy Gallagher who won the \$100 gift card. Congratulations to all our lucky duck winners. HPC gave out 12 prizes in total with 3 grand prize winners.

Other prizes for race day were graciously donated by Holiday Inn of Clark, Periwinkles, Milk Money, Vinny's Pizza, Fresh Pressed Juice Company, Alleum Yoga, Fromage Grill and Pizzeria Bel Giardino.

Hanson Park Conservancy would like to thank two very important Cranford merchants who lend tremendous support every year to HPC and the

Annual Duck Race. Elaine Moffett, Owner of Periwinkles and her staff sold over 900 ducks from her store located on North Union Ave, Cranford. It is with extreme gratitude we'd like to thank Elaine for helping us achieve our goals and support this event.

Ralph Circelli of the Cranford Canoe Club assisted our team with race day boat/canoe launch from the Canoe Club, sold ducks from the Canoe Club and graciously donated one of our grand prize gifts. Thank you, Ralph and Cranford Canoe Club, for all your support of HPC's Annual Duck Race.

Friends of the Cranford Library set up table at this year events and the kids enjoyed button making. We hope to have them back again next year.

Please visit our website at Hanson Park Conservancy to see a list of Sponsors who helped us raise the much-needed funds that continue maintenance and educational programs at Hanson Park. We are so grateful to our sponsors, merchants and residents who continue to support this event every year. Please thank them if you get the chance. We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2020.

If you have not yet walked through this lovely little park, please visit this hidden gem located at 38 Springfield Ave.



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Donations are welcome to be dropped off at 61 Myrtle St., Cranford, NJ on the following days only: Monday 11/12 thru Friday 11/16, and Monday 11/19, Tuesday 11/20 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. The office will be closing on Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. Donations CAN NOT be left outside of the door after hours.

We are in need of turkeys, turkey breasts, fresh fruit and vegetables, and Thanksgiving items, such as pies, rolls, apple cider, apple juice.

Gift cards are always welcome. Financial donations also are needed year round to ensure we can assist our neighbors in need with rent, utilities, and other daily living costs. Checks made payable to Cranford Family Care can be mailed to Kathy Willis, Cranford Family Care, 61 Myrtle Street, Cranford, NJ 07016.

Happy Thanksgiving to all our friends and donors you make our job so much easier. Help make this holiday a real day of Thanksgiving!

VFW SEEKS DONATIONS FOR CITIZENS IN NEED

The Cranford VFW Post 335 will be hosting an event in support of citizens from our community who are in need of food and/or clothing before the Thanksgiving holiday on Tuesday, November 26, 2019 from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. In order to support as many people as possible, we are collecting donations of canned goods, food, blankets, clothes, gift

cards, sleeping bags, and toiletries. Anything you are able to donate would be greatly appreciated.

Please drop off all donations by November 24 to the Cranford VFW, 479 South Ave. E, Cranford, NJ.

If you have any questions, please email Hanif_Davis@outlook.com.

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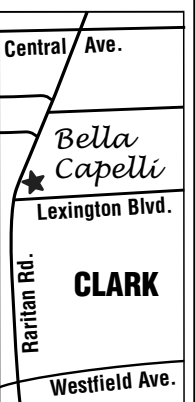
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PAMM WAHLBERG & STEVE LUCAS TO PERFORM AT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFE

The Salem Roadhouse Cafe proudly presents Pamm Wahlberg and Steve Lucas, performing on Saturday, November 9, 2019.

Pamm and Steve honor the legacy of Les Paul by performing often with the members of The Les Paul Trio. They are creating regional and national level Music for TV and Film and are very busy performing live for many different audiences at various venues. Both Pamm and Steve have performed at the Salem Roadhouse Café in the past as either backup to other performers, or as extra talent added to a show. The last time they played they paid homage to

Les Paul and Mary Ford, bringing a nostalgic form of music that was uniquely Les and Mary's. True lovers of classic rock roots won't want to miss this fantastic show! Music aficionados who know the history of Les Paul and Mary Ford will welcome this homage to the most influential music couple ever. Many serious guitar players recognize the incredible gifts that Les made to the music world.

Fans won't want to miss this live, up front and personal show. All ages are welcome. It's a wholesome show, so bring the entire family! Doors open 7:30 p.m. The show starts at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$20 and includes the show, snacks, beverages and dessert. Plan now for an evening of great music in Northern New Jersey's Most Intimate Coffeehouse™. Proceeds will help Family Promise of Union County.

ABOUT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

Dedication best defines the Salem Roadhouse Café: dedication to excellent music and dedication to the community. Now in its twelfth year, The Salem Roadhouse Café reaffirms its commitment to both.

Started in 2008 by members of Townley Presbyterian Church with a grant from the Presbytery of Elizabeth, the Roadhouse Café continues to operate as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. That may be its social mission... but the Roadhouse Café is and has been a solid performance venue beloved by the musicians who play there because of its special intimacy with the audience.

CHURCH MUSIC, IT'S NOT

The Roadhouse Café has always offered its stage to local and independent main stream musicians. It's a clean, safe place for people who enjoy listening to live music, in a world of clubs and bars. Jazz, rock, folk and other groups have performed. During the past eleven years well over 120 different entertainers have appeared. Local fine artists also display their works.

COMMUNITY ORIENTATION

The Salem Roadhouse Café has raised funds for many carefully chosen charities. They include: The Presbytery of Elizabeth E-port Center, Center For Hope Hospice, Community Food Bank, Monarch Housing, Angel Paws Animal Rescue, National MS Society, Haiti Disaster Relief, Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief, The Union County YWCA Domestic Violence Program, Making It Possible To End Homelessness, Camp Johnsonburg, The Music Institute, and others. Thousands of dollars have been raised for these deserving charities.

The musicians who play the Roadhouse often ask to return as soon as possible. The Roadhouse has given them a place with a beautiful stage, good acoustics, a live, attentive audience, and a sound system that is first class. Live, active stage lighting enhances the shows.

The current season is benefitting Family Promise Union County – Building Communities-Strengthening Lives.

Visit online at roadhousecafe.org or facebook.com/roadhousecafe. To reach by phone, call 908-687-1028, leave a message and a return number.

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HEARING SOCIETY SPEECH READING CLASSES

The Hearing Society, a local not-for-profit organization serving people with impaired hearing, is offering weekly classes in speech (lip) reading. These classes are held at the First Baptist Church of Westfield, 170 Elm Street, each Thursday, September through May, 10:30 - 11:45 a.m., unless otherwise announced. Light refreshments are served before each session.

These informal classes will again be under the direction of Morgan Orlowski, speech pathologist, and will provide strategies for coping with hearing loss as well as techniques for

improving individual communication skills.

The sessions also serve as a support service for Hearing Society members experiencing problems associated with hearing loss, and include discussions concerning developments in the ever-expanding technology of hearing enhancements now available.

Anyone in the greater Union County area who is interested in membership in the society and participating in these classes may contact Alice Knecht at azknecht@gmail.com for more information.

NEW CHILD SAFETY WEB SERIES

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) recently launched, "Into the Cloud," a brand new online safety product for children in grades K-5. This includes an animated web series and video game. Using data from actual NCMEC CyberTipline reports, each episode focuses on a different element of online safety, from strategies for handling cyberbullying

to recognizing and reporting unsafe/inappropriate interactions and content. Additional episodes will be available throughout the year.

"Into the Cloud" presents important safety information in an age-appropriate and entertaining manner! All the resources are free!

The episodes are available at www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/videos.

WHO SUPPORTS THE CARETAKER? NOV.19

The National Alliance on Mental Illness invites all who care for a loved one with a mental health illness to join our peer led group meetings and gain support and insight from others facing similar challenges. Time: Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford.

For more info: call 908-233-1628

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UNION MUNICIPAL BAND CONCERT NOV 11TH

Invitation for new members.

The Union Municipal Band, under the direction Howard Toplansky will present a concert on Monday evening, November 11, 2019. The concert will be held at Hannah Caldwell School Auditorium, 1120 Commerce Avenue, Union, NJ at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free and the public is cordially invited to attend. This autumn concert will feature music from the Broadway stage, marches and overtures.

The concert will include the following selections: The Star Spangled Banner, Brighton

Beach March, Amazon Overture, Gypsy Fantasy, Variag March, Amazing Grace, Strenuous Life Rag, The Girl From Ipanema and Third Man Theme.

The band would like to invite musicians from Union and the surrounding communities to join the group.

If you are interested please call the band director Howard Toplansky at 908-415-4939. Please call the Recreation Department at 908-686-4200 with any inquiries.

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TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR 21ST ANNUAL PIPES OF CHRISTMAS

The Pipes of Christmas will celebrate its 21st season with performances in New Jersey and New York this December. The holiday favorite opens on Saturday, December 14 at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, located at 921 Madison Avenue (at 73rd Street) for a 2 p.m. performance. The concert moves across the Hudson River on Sunday, December 15 to Central Presbyterian Church located at 70 Maple Street in Summit, NJ with performances at 2 and 7 p.m.

For those weary of the ceaseless stream of secular seasonal music from department stores to TV, the Pipes of Christmas offers a spiritual and traditional take on the season that connects concertgoers to the holiday in a fresh, meaningful way. The show features tunes such as, "Highland Cathedral," Joy to the World, and Amazing Grace, all performed live on pipes and drums, harp and fiddle, and organ and brass and more. Not only does the performance define Christmas cheer, but also it inspires those of Celtic descent to retrace and reconnect to their ancestry.

The 2019 production will also mark the world premiere of "Mystical Nativity," an original composition inspired by the 16th century masterpiece painted by Italian Renaissance master, Sandro Botticelli.

The concert presents the music of Christmas accompanied by readings taken from the Celtic literature of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. Featured performers include singer Maddy Kearns of Glasgow, Scotland making her concert debut, James Robinson from the film "Braveheart," New England fiddle champion Paul Woodiel, champion harpist Rachel Clemente, and the Pipe Major Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band from Redlands, CA among many more.

PROCEEDS SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS AND MORE

Proceeds from the concert support an extensive music scholarship program, which includes the Carol Hassert Memorial Fine Arts Scholarship at Summit (NJ) High School as well as annual gifts to the National Piping Centre and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (both

located in Glasgow, Scotland) the Gaelic College of Nova Scotia and Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas.

Proceeds also support the Society's sponsorship of the US National Scottish Harp Championship, the Gaelic Literature Competition at Scotland's Royal National Mod and an annual academic research prize at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland's Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye.

Each year, concert highlights are webcast in hi-definition over the Christmas holiday to a global audience. In cooperation with HomeTowne Television, the 2018 production was the recipient of two prestigious Telly Awards for webcast excellence.

The concert is still accepting Title Sponsors as well as Program Ads. These gifts help offset production expenses and add help fund our scholarships.

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

Tickets may be purchased online exclusively through Brown Paper Tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com (be certain you select the event name and date in the search engine) or by phone at (800) 838-3006. Reserved patron seats are available at both venues.



(above) Pipers from the Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band are returning to the East Coast this December to join the company of the 19th annual "Pipes of Christmas" concerts.



(above) Rachel Clemente. The acclaimed composer and performer will debut the new composition, "Mystical Nativity."



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76

Homes Currently
on the Market



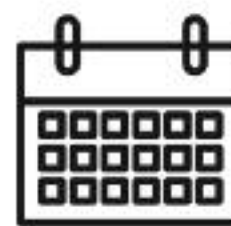
36

Homes Listed



19

Homes Sold in
the Last 30 Days



48

Average Days
on Market

AVERAGE:

List Price \$546,337
Sale Price \$530,685

Sale Price/List Price:

97.1%

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*Data provided is as per the Garden State
MLS between 8/15/19-9/15/19

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