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CRANFORD FIRST AID SQUAD DURING COVID CRISIS

Submitted by Kent Lucas

The non-profit Cranford First Aid Squad has continued to operate fully during the COVID-19 pandemic, with our response times as fast as always. EMS services in Cranford are divided between the volunteer First Aid Squad and Cranford Fire Department EMS. CFAS handles all 911 medical calls Monday through Friday 6:30 p.m. until 5:30 a.m. and all 24 hours on Saturday and Sunday. CFD EMS takes all 911 medical calls Monday through Friday 5:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m.

It has been a challenging time. CFAS has been fortunate to have officers who very early, before there was an acute shortage, acted to procure adequate protective equipment for all our members. Our Medical Officer, Matthew Schrier, and our Treasurer, Daniel Gomez, spared no expense in making sure we would be able to keep our members as safe as possible. A terrible situation for our college members, who had to leave their campuses and return home, has proven beneficial for CFAS. Many of these members have been filling personnel shortages and covering shifts. Even with a large drop in motor vehicle collisions, usually one of our top call types, our call volume is significantly higher than normal. When we have crew staffing to operate both of our ambulances, we also take 911 calls to surrounding towns due to the shortage of EMS services in Union County.

We continue to accept applications for membership and no experience is required.



(above) Makayla Cartnick, Katherine Riggins and Daniel Gomez sanitize the ambulance after a COVID-19 call.

CFAS is overall one of the younger volunteer squads in the area. Our younger members often graduate and leave Cranford. We have a need for some older members to maintain continuity. We always need help with fundraising, recruiting and membership.

These COVID-19 calls are often long, stressful and difficult. We have seen many people stricken by this terrible virus. Donations and support from Cranford residents has buoyed our spirit and helped us operate. Thank you to all who have donated food, equipment and money during the past weeks.

CRANFORD FIRST AID SQUAD

WHY ARE WE FREE? We are able to provide free 911 emergency response because our members are not paid for their services. Our operating costs are covered completely by donations from residents. We send out an annual fund drive to all businesses and residents asking for donations. These donations keep us free and can save you hundreds of dollars during a medical emergency. Donations also allow us to continue to use state of the art equipment and keep our equipment maintained as well as pay for training for our members and medical supplies.

WHY DO WE DO WHAT WE DO? Our members and officers are simply dedicated individuals who enjoy helping others, working in the field of medicine and serving the community. We enjoy providing EMS Service, Education and Awareness to the community. The majority of our members are residents. We know that training and knowledge of volunteering at the Cranford First Aid Squad can come in handy at any time. Whether for our own families, our neighbors or even a total stranger. There are many reasons to join!

I WANT TO HELP OR JOIN THE SQUAD; HOW CAN I DO IT? Please fill out a members application at www.cranfordfirstaid.org and submit it via mail or email to the Captain. We will reach out to you to schedule an interview.

HOW CAN I MAKE A DONATION? We are extremely cost conscious and can only operate through the generosity of each of you. It is greatly appreciated. Tax-deductible donation can be mailed to: Cranford First Aid Squad, 6 Centennial Ave., Cranford NJ 07016.

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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!

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Email: editor@rennamedia.com

SHOP LOCAL. SHOP CRANFORD.

Submitted by Gabe Bailer, Director, Downtown Cranford

Shop local. Shop Cranford. Let this resonate for a minute. Now more than ever, our community needs to support our local businesses. The Coronavirus has impacted us all and altered daily lives and routines. Many Cranford business owners found themselves having to change the way they operate to ensure the safety of their customers and employees. Despite the fact that their physical storefronts may be closed, Cranford is open for business! A number of retailers offer curbside pickup and local delivery, posting their offerings on social media and websites. Restaurants continue to serve up delicious meals through delivery and takeout. Gift cards can be purchased from a number of businesses, ensuring that we all have something to look forward to in the coming months.

Despite their best efforts to adapt, the impact on many Cranford business owners has been significant. We need to ensure the things we love about downtown will continue. Cranford would not be the community it is without the small business owners who contribute to our schools, organizations, teams, and first responders. Now it is our turn to give them our support.

There are several holidays in the month of May that offer the opportunity to send a special gift to your loved one, order food and drink to enjoy with your family, and help support our businesses. Please follow the Downtown Cranford Facebook and Instagram pages to learn more about our businesses and their offerings. For the month of May, the Downtown Cranford office will be holding weekly promotions that

offer the chance to win a \$50 gift card to the Cranford Business of your choice. All you have to do is spend at least \$20 at any Cranford business and email a copy of the receipt or proof of transaction to dmc@cranfordnj.org

Our businesses are always there for us and now we need to be there for them!



(above) Everyone is smiling at Augusta Mae Boutique and Fine Consignment

CRANFORD FAMILY CARE ACCEPTING DONATIONS

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.

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| May 29th | NATIONAL HAMBURGER'S DAY |
| May 31st | NATIONAL MACARON DAY |

CRANFORD FRESHMAN BRANDON HAISER RECEIVES ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN AWARD

Brandon Haiser, a freshman at Cranford High School was recently awarded the USA Gymnastics' Academic All-American Recognition Award. Brandon is one of three on his entire team to qualify and one of a very select group in the entire country. He has been training in the sport since age 8. Brandon is currently a Level 10 Gymnast and trains at

Surgent's Elite School of Gymnastics with coaches Matt Stevenson and Rich Pulsfort.

Brandon was hoping to qualify for Nationals in Florida. Unfortunately, because of COVID-19, the NJ States, Regionals and National Championships were all canceled.

His goal is to come back next year and to qualify for the 2021 Nationals.



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CRANFORD STUDENTS HEAR ABOUT HISTORY

Submitted by Maureen Strazdon

Did you know that the first school in Cranford was the “Old Red School House” built in 1805 at the corner of Union Avenue and Lincoln Avenue? It was 24 feet long, 16 feet wide and had only one room. It was Cranford’s only school until 1868.

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That was one of the fun facts about the history of Cranford that was read with the morning announcements at each of the schools in the Cranford school district the week of March 9.

“We thought that announcing facts the students would be able to relate to would be a great way for them to learn about the history of Cranford,” said Amy Imhof, Elementary World Language teacher at Brookside Place School and Hillside Avenue School. “We declared it Cranford History Week in honor of Cranford’s incorporation on March 14, 1871 and decided to celebrate it this way.” Amy worked with the Historic Preservation Advisory Board to find the facts and with the school principals and PTAs to iron out the delivery.

Cooper Groll, a 4th grade student at Orange Avenue School said “I like how Cranford will celebrate 150 years, it makes it a fun community to live in.” Kelly Rotella, a 4th grader at Brookside Place School said “It is really amazing. The river carnivals are something I would have liked to have seen!” Charlotte Groll, a 3rd grader at Orange Avenue School said “It is amazing to learn that the town grew from 60 people to 22,000. People must have come for the river carnival and stayed because Cranford does such cool things.”

Another of the facts announced at the schools

concerned the Annual River Carnivals that were held on the Rahway River in Cranford from 1886 to 1928, with over 10,000 people watching decorated boats floating down the River. Another was about the Crane Phillips House on North Union Avenue, the most well-known historical building in Cranford and the home of the Cranford Historical Society, visited by all Cranford 3rd graders.

Students heard that Cranford was settled in the early 1700s by people from Elizabeth and was known as Cranes Mills when it became part of Westfield in 1794. Cranford became its own township in 1871, and the first official act of the Township Committee was to get land to build a dog pound. The oldest home in Cranford is the Norris Oakley House at 1117 Orange Avenue.

Because of school closures students missed hearing about the fact that the original Native American name for the Cranford area was Wawahakewany meaning “place where eggs are found” and that Nomahegan Park, an Algonquin word meaning “baby wolf”, was once a Native American camping ground. The Rahway River is named for Rahwack, a Native American chief.

The students as well as the teachers look forward to more activities relating to Cranford’s history when the township celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2021.



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JOE ONEILL HELPS VETERANS THROUGH CAR DONATION PROGRAM

Submitted by Michael D. Boll, NJVN

About three years ago I received a call from our team's sponsor Geico Insurance, regarding a new car donation for New Jersey disabled veterans. Geico connected me to Benner's Auto Body in Cranford. The next day I met with the owner, Joseph Oneill and we spoke about a possible car donation. Joe explained how he wanted to donate newer cars to disabled veterans. Joe was so passionate about this, he felt it was just one way to give back.

We spoke for a few hours and Joe was extremely committed to working with disabled veterans and their families. We immediately found two disabled veterans in need and Joe and

his team began working on two newer cars for both of these men. While the two veterans were waiting for their cars to be completed, Joe had Enterprise Rent a Car provide them with temporary transportation.

It didn't stop there, Joe hosted a huge party to honor the veterans at the River and Rail Cantina. After the event Joe told me that he wanted to get more involved and believed that we could work together and get countless veterans newer cars. Since then Joe and his team have been able to provide over a dozen cars for disabled veterans throughout the state.

When I spoke to Joe I learned that he played hockey at a high level and wanted to try out for a professional team. However, his dream was cut short because he was diagnosed with Hodgkin Lymphoma; this ended any chance of playing professional ice hockey. After undergoing treatment at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, he has been cancer free. After getting a second chance Joe decided to live life to the fullest and always put others first.

Joe never got to play hockey but he did become a sponsor for the New Jersey Devils and has been friends with their staff and players for years. Recently, Joe was able to have the team work with us on various charity events. When Joe found out that one of our Devils fan team members was being honored at a game, he surprised us and got a luxury suite and was able to have our veteran and his family honored at the

game. During the game, Joe was able to have the veteran meet a few retired players and got him the team's autographs.

My friend, Joe Oneill is currently serving on our board. He is constantly helping our car donation program grow throughout the state. This caring and kind man is loved by so many. I am so lucky to be able to work alongside this great man.

If you are interested in joining our team please feel free to contact me at (973)-332-1556 or email mdbollio@optonline.net. To learn more visit njvn.org.

ABOUT NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK

We are a group of veterans and volunteers dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live better lives. Our team is raising awareness of our veterans needs by organizing public speaking engagements, meeting with business and political leaders across the state and sponsoring fundraising events. Our mission is to identify veterans and connect them with resources and programs designed to meet their unique set of needs. To ensure that EVERY single one of our veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this great country, receives the resources that they require and deserve. If you are interested in joining our team, would like us to speak at your event, or contributing to our mission, call 973-332-1556 or email mdbollio@optonline.net. To learn more visit njvn.org.



(above, l-r) Michael D. Boll, New Jersey Veterans Network president, and Joe O Oneill

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LUCIA PIZARRO RECEIVES NJ DAR GOOD CITIZEN AWARD

The New Jersey Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NJDAR) recently announced that their Good Citizen Award and Scholarship would be presented to Lucia Pizarro, a senior at Cranford High School.

The high school senior selected must have the qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. The scholarship portion of the program consists of two parts. The student must describe how they have tried to manifest the qualities of a good citizen and secondly must write an essay on a topic chosen by the National Society. This year the topic was titled "Our American Heritage and Our Responsibility for Preserving It." The focus question was "You and your peers are our nation's leaders of tomorrow. How would you energize America's youth to fully engage as effective citizens? Why is that important?"

The Crane's Ford chapter congratulates Lucia Pizarro for being chosen as the NJDAR winner;

our chapter has been sponsoring the Good Citizen Award since 1950. The National Society has been awarding the Good Citizen Scholarship for 86 years.

The DAR, founded in 1890 and headquartered in Washington DC, is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children. Currently there are 185,000 members and 3,000 chapters nationwide. There are chapters in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and countries overseas. The Crane's Ford chapter was founded in 1944; New Jersey has 26 chapters. DAR membership is open to any woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American Independence.

If you think you have a Patriot of the American Revolution in your family please visit DAR.org for more information.

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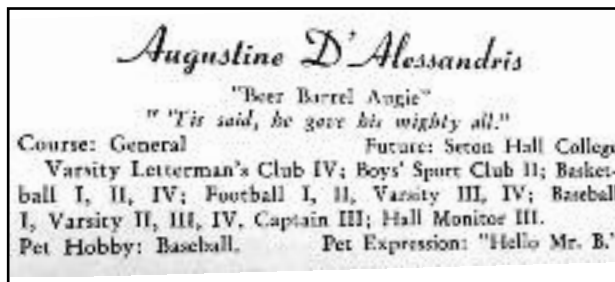
By Don Sweeney, research by Stu Rosenthal, military proofreading by Vic Bary and editing by Janet Ashnault.

Recently our Cranford 86 team was wrapping up its third year of profiling our town's Hometown Heroes. In the selection process that we do before each story, we review the research files of several candidates. As this was being done, from out of the blue, we received a phone call from Rosemarie D'Alessandris Boczon, the niece of Augustine "Augie" D'Alessandris. Rosemarie was made aware of our project by her son, who saw a Cranford 86 Facebook post last June, a D-Day tribute to their uncle. Although Augie's story had been discussed several times since our project started, it was lack of detail and good photos that had prevented its completion. As always, we had hoped that someday, that all-important family connection would be found.

After a short conversation, I realized that Rosemarie was the link that we were missing in the Augie D'Alessandris story, a story long overdue to be told. Normally, our meetings with new-found family and friends of Cranford 86 members are held in person, over coffee. But being in the middle the Coronavirus pandemic and observing mandatory shelter-in-place and strict social distancing, we had to settle for a phone interview. Rosemarie had emailed us a stack of articles and pictures that she and her mother Minnie had gathered from years of research. With coffee cups in hand my co-writer/researcher Stu Rosenthal and I chatted with Rosemarie for over an hour about her dad's legendary younger brother Augie, who died in WWII, three months after her birth. We could tell immediately from the emotion in her voice, that to their family, Augie was an iconic figure. We knew that what she was about to tell us was yet another heartfelt unveiling of a Cranford 86 Hometown Hero.

Augustine was born on October 28, 1920, the ninth of ten children of Natale and Pietrina D'Alessandris, of 10 Meeker Avenue. He attended Lincoln School before moving up to Cranford High School where he was found to be gifted academically as well as athletically. Although he played basketball for three years in high school, it was at varsity football as a center and at baseball that Augie D'Alessandris made his first mark as a hometown star. At 5'8", 175 pounds, Augie's most notable claim to fame was as the lead pitcher as well as the big bat in the lineup. On the baseball team's page of his 1940 yearbook, it is insinuated that he was the jack-of-all-trades of the team. A humorous note there states: "Augie D'Alessandris also filled in as gardener while not pitching". As the team captain, it was here that Augie first displayed his ability to lead, an attribute that would define him throughout the rest of his life.

To better understand the life of Augie D'Alessandris, it is important to realize the economics and history of the period in which he was raised. When Augie was nine years old the stock market crash of 1929 sent the country into the Great Depression, which lasted 10 years, ending the year he graduated high school. Although the text under his yearbook portrait indicated his future plans to be Seton Hall



(above, left) In the senior section of the 1940 Cranford Yearbook, the Golden C, Augie signed his portrait for a friend. Here we found his nickname "Beer Barrel", his aspiration for higher education and his senior quote which was very prophetic. (above, right) As center on Cranford's 1939-1940 varsity football team, at 5 foot 8, 175 pounds, Augie looks ready to take on his defensive opponents. Three years later he would find himself again on the frontline on the offense on another team, whose victory would change the world.

University, apparently that dream would have to wait until funds could be earned. Even though his father had steady work with the B&O Railroad, there were few depression families, especially a family with 10 children, that were financially prepared to send their children to college.

Following world history of the times, September 1939 was the beginning of WWII in Europe, when Hitler and the 3rd Reich started their Blitzkrieg attacks to seize Poland and then France. America, maintaining a strict isolationist stand, had us watching the events from the sidelines, only assisting Great Britain with some war supplies.

Rosemarie shared with us the strong work ethic that was taught by example in the D'Alessandris household. It was known in their family, that if you wanted something, you had to work for it. Rosemarie's dad Rocco was Augie's older brother. At age 31, Rocco was working at General Motors. Rocco vouched for his little brother and Augie was hired by GM in 1940 after high school graduation. This was good work for a depression kid. His physical condition and sharp intellect undoubtedly made him a valuable employee. Suddenly, Augie's plans of working his way into college, like those of so many other young men, were put on hold when the Japanese Navy attacked Pearl Harbor. Augie now found himself as part of the war effort as the General Motors plant in Linden was converted to become Eastern Aircraft. The plant began building the Grumman Wildcat, a carrier based, heavily armored, fighter

(continued on page 12)



(above) As the premier pitcher and strongest bat in the line-up, Augie D'Alessandris was the jack-of-all-trades on the Cranford Varsity baseball team for three years. Elected team captain in his Junior year, his leadership skills served him well in the Army, making Sergeant in only 3 months.



(above) The proudest parents in Cranford. In 1943, of their 10 children, Natale and Pietrina D'Alessandris had 5 of their sons serving in WW2, 3 of which were part of the D-Day invasion into Normandy, France.



(above) The D'Alessandris home on at 10 Meeker Avenue as it looks today. In 1944, on the side of the house was a regulation bocce court. Interestingly, one side of the court was inside the garage, allowing play to commence even in inclement weather. The backyard was a relatively large family farm that was on property not actually owned by the family. Today the backyard is the Cranford Senior Housing on Lincoln Ave. The grapes were harvested and converted into homemade wine that was known to be stronger than the average store-bought vintages.

AUGUSTINE V. D'ALESSANDRIS (continued from page 11)

bomber that would attempt to match the might of the Mitsubishi A6M Zero that was terrorizing our Navy over the South Pacific. Augie's skills as an upholsterer of fine Buicks, Pontiacs and Oldsmobiles at General Motors' most advanced assembly plant were now used to create cockpit interiors for hundreds of aeronautic fighting machines. He was now part of America's infamous rapid manufacturing response which created the largest collection of war hardware in

history. In 1941, the Linden plant was turning out one car per minute. By war's end the joint efforts of Grumman and Eastern Aircraft would produce 35,000 planes from the assembly plants in Linden and Trenton, equaling more than a third of the 100,000 fighter planes created nationwide. Each evening the day's productions were pushed by hand across a barricaded Route 1 to be test flown at a makeshift airstrip that would eventually become Linden Airport after war's end.

Although he was already serving his country, Augustine V. D'Alessandris, like so many courageous Americans of his generation, recognized the existence of a greater need and took a valiant step. On June 13th, 1942, leaving the secure employment he had had since high school and the safety of his home in Cranford, Augie enlisted in the Army for the duration of the war plus 6 months. With he and his counterparts heading to the front lines, it was American women that then stepped up to fill the vacant positions in the factories. "Rosie the Riveter" became a common sight on the assembly lines at Eastern Aircraft.

After basic training at Camp Forrest in Tennessee, Augie travelled north to Fort Meade near Baltimore, for advanced training. As a training and staging facility, Fort Meade hosted 200 units and 3,500,000 soldiers throughout WWII. It was here, at Meade, that Augie's leadership skills caught the attention of his superiors. In only three months from his enlistment date, he was promoted to sergeant, a somewhat unprecedented event. Augie continued training there until October 1943 and then shipped out to England joining the 9th Infantry Division, 60th Infantry Regiment. After successful tours in Sicily and Tunisia, the regiment was back for some rest and relaxation and to begin preparation for a secret mission. It was here, in London on February 25th, 1944 that Augie would meet up with his younger brother Louis. News of their meeting was published in the Cranford Citizen and Chronicle and provided great comfort to the family back home. Rosemarie shared with us that of all the five D'Alessandris brothers that were serving in the war at that time, it was Louis that everyone was concerned about, him being the youngest. Augie, the closest in age to Louis, communicated constantly with his youngest brother since entering the service. What no one had realized at the time was that four of the five D'Alessandris brothers were all in England that same day. And on D-Day, three of them would play a role in the invasion that would change the world.

Augie and the 60th would join with the 4th, 9th and 79th Regiments for a force of over 6000. Their assignment would be to land on Utah Beach on D-Day +4, June 10, 1944 and traverse the heavily fortified Cotentin Peninsula in a grueling 15-18 mile trek through farms, countrysides and villages. The success of this mission would set the stage for the upcoming siege that would overtake the town of Cherbourg along with its deep-water port. Occupation of Cherbourg had been in the plans since the Invasion of Normandy (codename Operation Overlord) was conceived and was critical to the grand scheme of the Allied invasion of Western Europe. An amphibious landing onto the beaches of France had worked well for a surprise invasion of 156,000 men, accompanied by limited hardware. But to wage war to the degree that was to happen here, a commercial deep-water port was going to be needed. A few million men were to follow shortly along with all their needs for war. Ingenious artificial "Mulberry



(above) Sergeant Augustine D'Alessandris, during what the family believes to be his pre-D-day training in England. A letter received by them during this time quotes him as saying, "I love this



(above) A hand-lettered, customized Purple Heart presented to the D'Alessandris family after Augie's death.



(above) Under his yearbook portrait Augie is called "Beer Barrel Augie". It has been said that "barrel chested" was a physical characteristic of many of the D'Alessandris men. This picture of Augie posing in his new uniform beside their home at 10 Meeker Ave. may give a clue as to what exactly that means.



(above) On July 8th, 1948 Augie's remains were returned to Beverly National cemetery in New Jersey. He was buried there with full military honors.

(continued on page 13)

AUGUSTINE V. D'ALESSANDRIS (continued from page 12)

Harbors” had been temporarily created on Omaha and Arromanches beaches to allow large cargo ships to unload early supplies and armored vehicles, but a permanent port would be needed to supply what would become the world’s greatest invasion.

Normandy was one of the three entry points that the Germans anticipated as potential portals for the expected upcoming Allied invasion. Hitler appointed Field Marshal Rommel to personally design and manage the defense construction of Cherbourg. Twenty enormous concrete forts known to the soldiers as “pillboxes” were strategically placed and constructed there. Each one was armed with an assortment of automatic weapons and large caliber cannons. Hitler had declared Cherbourg to be a “Festung” (fortress), a designation everyone knew to mean that its defenders were to fight to the last man. The Germans knew that they could not and would not, lose Cherbourg. Generals Eisenhower and Montgomery felt differently, they surmised that if the Allies could cut off the port city from supply and retreat, and with offshore as well as aerial bombardment, that Cherbourg could be taken. Augie’s unit, Company A, 1st Battalion, 60th Regiment, a group of about 175 soldiers, flanked by 350 soldiers from Company B and C, trekked across the countryside, working from farm to farm, encountering heavy resistance for 10 days. Their task was to eliminate the defensive pillboxes to allow for the placement of the massive attacking forces to follow. On June 19th a violent hundred-year storm poured enormous quantities of rain on the countryside causing flooding of epic proportions, making this task even more incredible. It was on that day, that the inclement weather gave Augie a pause to write home. In the letter he asked his mom not to worry about him, obviously knowing his life was in danger.

Detailed accounts from Sergeant D’Alessandris’ unit, from the army archives, were given to us by Augie’s family. They told of the tactics used to take out the 20 formidable pillboxes: “Each unit developed a slow but relatively safe method of dealing with these fortifications. Artillery and dive bombers would be used to force the Germans into their concrete defenses. A light bombardment would keep them pinned down while the infantry advanced to within 400 yards of the pillbox. The infantry

would then take over, pouring heavy fire into the embrasures, while combat engineers (Augie’s described position) worked their way around to the rear, blew the doors open and then threw explosives or smoke grenades into the pillbox”. No names were mentioned of the individual participants taking on the tasks, but the D’Alessandris family knew that Augie, with his natural leadership and physical abilities, was right in the middle of the action. Multiple Medals of Honor were earned during this march, many lives were lost. Rosemarie shared a line from a letter that the family has saved from 1944, which gives us an idea as to the fortitude that her uncle possessed. In the letter Augie spoke about his pre-D-Day training, saying “I really like this stuff”.

On June 21st their first objective had been accomplished. Two thousand troops had made it across the peninsula, Cherbourg had been cut off from supply and thousands of paratroopers and gliders full of troops now fortified the perimeter. The big guns of a naval task force sat off the coast ready for action, it was June 22nd. General Collins, the American commanding officer, now issued an ultimatum to German commander General Von Schlieben, to surrender or be crushed. Von Schlieben, under strict orders from Hitler to fight until the last soldier’s bullet had been fired, ignored the request. The onslaught began and continued through to the next day. On the 23rd, fighter planes from aircraft carriers approached the battlefield, flares to mark the troop’s placement were ignited to guide the bomb placement and protect the troops. With the high winds from the persistent storms, the smoke quickly blew away. Tragically, many friendly bombs were dropped prematurely on positions

held by the 60th, causing many casualties. Rosemarie says some in her family feel that this may have been how Augie lost his life, as this is the recorded date of his death, although there was so much violent action that day, there is no way to know for sure. From this point, formerly classified minute to minute archive reports tell of a full day of continuous Allied offensives answered by German tank counter attacks. The accounts were filled with such detail, that they read like a movie script.

By June 24th the Germans’ main defenses had cracked. The fall of Cherbourg was now a foregone conclusion. General Von Schlieben directed all his demolition abilities toward the port. By the time he finally surrendered, he had inflicted so much damage that it would be September before the port of Cherbourg would receive the first ship full of supplies. When he received news of the surrender, an enraged Hitler chastised Von Schlieben as a coward. In total, 40,000 German soldiers were taken prisoner and 15,000 killed. Sergeant Augustine V. D’Alessandris was one of 2,800 Allied soldiers lost in what would be one of the greatest, yet bittersweet, victories of the war. In addition, 13,500 were wounded in the sixteen-day siege. It set the tone for the next year as the Allied forces would march across France and ultimately defeat fascism in Europe. Amazingly, a 45-mile underwater fuel pipeline across the English Channel to Cherbourg was operational by August, providing this most important supply to the war effort.

Back in Cranford a Western Union man arrived

(continued on page 14)



(above) Newly assembled Wildcat FM-1 aircraft sit on the tarmac at the airfield that would become Linden Airport. In the background is the newly erected hangar with control tower which sat on Route 1 across the highway from General Motors. Augie worked at GM during its conversion from cars to airplanes.



(above) Assembly lines at Linden’s Eastern Aircraft, formerly General Motors, formerly General Motors. 35,000 Wildcats and Avengers were assembled in Linden and Trenton by 1945.



(above) The 60th Infantry Regiment of the 9th Infantry, D’Alessandris’ unit, travelled across the Cotentin Peninsula to cut off German supply lines and stop any possible retreat. The arrows, although not exactly accurate, show the unit’s path taken from Utah beach.



(above) A German concrete pillbox on the Cotentin Peninsula. Twenty of these forts guarded Cherbourg from land attack. This embrasure, like many, was equipped an 88mm flat trajectory cannon, an “88”. The most effective anti-aircraft gun of its time, it came to be known as the anti-everything gun by the Allies. Its accuracy and speed of delivery made it the most feared offensive weapon of the war, excluding the atom bomb. Its addition to the pillboxes guarding Cherbourg is telling of the importance of the defense of the deep-port city. In the detailed report of the day of Augie’s death, it was reported that they were under attack from an 88.

AUGUSTINE V. D'ALESSANDRIS (continued from page 13)

at the D'Alessandris home, bringing the tragic news from Normandy. It was the second such delivery to bring sad news to 10 Meeker Avenue. Only two months earlier, another telegram arrived stating that the B-17 bomber carrying their son, Technical Sergeant Alfred D'Alessandris, was missing over Germany. It was believed that he was being held as a prisoner of war

Augie was at first buried in France at Sainte Mere Englise Cemetery #2. In total, 14,000 American comrades were buried in three temporary American cemeteries there. In a massive repatriation program, two thirds of the servicemen were relocated to cemeteries chosen by their families back home in America. Five thousand families chose to have the remains of their loved ones remain in Normandy. They were moved to the Normandy American Cemetery on the elevated shore of Utah Beach at Colleville-

Sur-Mer. On July 8, 1948 Augie was buried with full military honors at his final resting place at Beverly National Cemetery in Beverly, New Jersey. Rosemarie, although too young to attend, remembers her family's stories of the event. A large turnout of Cranford townspeople attended the funeral in recognition of Augie's life and his courage in the service to our country, as well as to support the family in the loss of their 23-year-old son and brother. Every member of the immediate D'Alessandris family was in attendance. Natale (72), Pietrina (60), Susanna "Suzzie" (40), Rocco "Rockie" (39), Raffaele "Ralph" (35), Amerigo "Matty" (34), Giuseppe "Joseph" (32), Alfredo "Alfred" (30), Alberto "Albert" (29), and Luigi "Louis" (25). Another child had died previously in 1911 at 3 months of age from whooping cough. His name was Agostino, yes "Augie", named after Pietrina's father.

Augie's brother Alfred was liberated by the Americans after the historic "Long March" from the notorious German prisoner of war Stalag XVII-B in May of 1945, he had served as a top turret gunner /engineer on a B-17 Flying Fortress bomber with the 8th Army Air Force. Albert was a Corporal with the 82nd Airborne as a gliderman. With the 80th AA/AT, he was one of the first boots on the ground at Normandy on D-Day, as well as four other invasions including the famed Operation Market Garden. Ralph served with the Merchant Marines and lost an arm in an incident in the Pacific. Louie served for more than 2 years with the 29th Infantry, he landed onto Omaha Beach on D-Day and also served with a decorated unit at the Battle of St. Lo. Joseph joined the army but was released after 2 months with a bad leg.

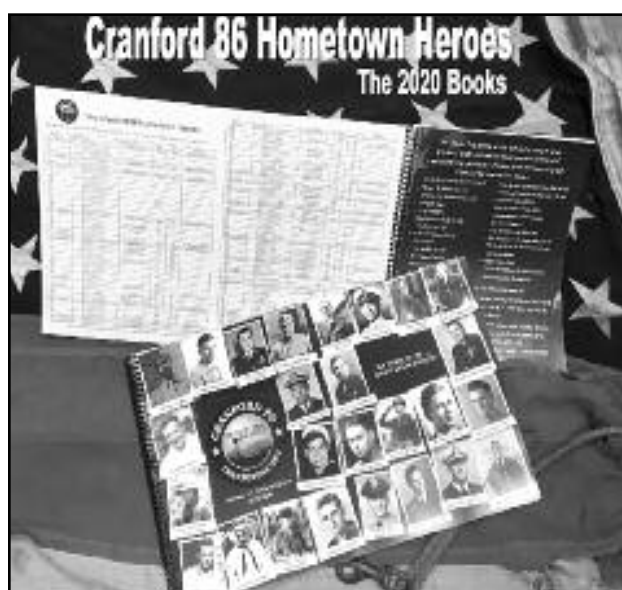
The story of Natale D'Alessandris leaving the beautiful town of Patrica, Italy with his brother in 1901 is a tale of determination to achieve the American dream. Speaking no English, he immediately enrolled in night school and embraced his new language. He then attended railroad engineering classes and became skilled at laying railroad track. His natural intellect and ability to lead, allowed him to become a foreman incredibly quickly, traits that seemed to be passed

on to his children. In 1907 at age 29 he returned to his hometown in Italy to marry his childhood love, Pietrina, 12 years his junior. Working then for the B&O/Staten Island Railroad he purchased a home at Cranford Junction, the railroad yard which sits at the corner of South and Lincoln Avenues near the Roselle border. He and his wife Pietrina loved America, and they instilled that love in every one of their 10 children. Throughout the war, a banner with five blue stars was prominently displayed in the living room window of their home, representing their five sons currently serving their chosen country. Their humble Italian American immigrant home was the proudest household in Cranford. Natale retired from the railroad after 47 years of service in 1947.

Sergeant Augustine Vincent D'Alessandris, a member of America's Greatest Generation, answered the call to service when our country needed him most. He gave his life along with 56 other Cranford young citizens within a short four-year span. Although their names remain clearly etched in bronze at Memorial Park, as time has passed, their stories and faces have become blurred and have faded from view. It is the ongoing honor of our team, to one by one, reintroduce to you, each of these American heroes. In a timelessly prophetic way, Augie's senior quote, from under his yearbook portrait, left me without words, "Tis said, he gave his mighty all". Such can be said for all of Cranford's 86.

To see all the stories and faces revealed to date, please visit our website at Cranford86.org or our Facebook page at Cranford86. The complete 110-page full color book of the 27 profiles done so far is now available for a donation that covers its printing cost of \$35.00. For those that already have Volume 1 and 2, Volume 3 is also available now for \$20.00. Contact us at info@cranford86.org. More photos as well as several YouTube video clips of historic newsreels of the period are also at Cranford86.org.

Special thanks go out to the Cranford Woman's Club for sponsoring the banner of Augie D'Alessandris.



Cranford 86 Hometown Heroes
The 2020 Books

This year's Memorial Day Parade has been postponed to a later date to be determined.

The Cranford 86 annual books however are ready and can be shipped directly to your home.

There are 2 books this year.

The full collection, Volume 1-3, 27 stories, 120 pages in full color, \$35.00 and this year's Volume 3 of 6 stories, 46 pages in full color, \$20.00

These prices reflect the actual printing costs of the books, a shipping charge may be added if delivery outside Cranford is needed.

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THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 9TH ANNUAL NICARAGUA TRIP

Submitted by Skip Winter

Friends often ask me what are you going to be building on your mission trip to Nicaragua? Are you going to be constructing or painting houses or perhaps repairing homes that have been damaged due to neglect or natural disasters over time? Many are surprised when I tell them that our mission team will be building new relationships and strengthening the foundations of organizations that we have supported in many different ways over the past years. The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford's ninth annual January ecumenical mission to Nicaragua was from January 18 to January 26, 2020.

Our team of seven travelers, which included myself, the Rev. Brooks Smith, the Rev. David Jahnke, the Rev. Edwin Estevez, Gerry McKenna, Pam Heady, and Tom Strowe, Jr., accomplished all of our objectives in our eight days in Nicaragua, and as always happens, new doors are opened and

opportunities presented that make us anxious to return home to celebrate and spread the word about the good work that is being accomplished.

We worked with our four mission partners, Corazon Contenido, Fedi-Camp, Axayacatl and Inhiambia. Corazon Contenido is an organization in Granada that specializes in working with special needs adults and children. They are the only such organization in Nicaragua that focuses on working with special needs individuals. Fedi-Camp is an organization in the northern Nicaragua town of Esteli. Fedi-Camp works with communities on improving their accessibility to clean water, better sanitation facilities and better agricultural practices. Axayacatl is a women's organization in Masaya that works with women that suffer from domestic and sexual abuse. Aside from providing counseling and advocacy, they also provide micro-financing to help women become more financially independent. Inhiambia, which is located in Managua, works with children who live in squalid conditions and who are often drug addicted and have suffered from domestic and sexual abuse.

Our team was very pleased to reconnect with Celia, the seven year old deaf girl that we met three years ago in the community of Rio Grande, outside of Esteli. We were able to receive her family's contact information, which will enable us to help her receive the treatment that she needs. Singer/songwriter, Kelli Bruno, who has been on two of our past trips, has been a strong advocate for Celia and also wrote a song called "Corazon," in her honor.

Finally, we were honored to spend time with the Mayor of Granada, who graciously allowed us a great deal of time to discuss life in Granada. Tom Strowe, Jr., who is the Economic Development Manager of Scotch Plains, presented her with a proclamation written by the Mayor of Scotch Plains, Al Smith, with an invitation to begin the process of becoming "sister cities."

The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford is located at 11 Springfield Ave., Cranford. For information about mission, youth fellowship, worship and other church activities, please contact the church at 908-276-8440 or visit our website at firstprescranford.org.



(above, back) Skip Winter, Rev. Edwin Estevez, Rev. David Jahnke;
(front) Pam Heady, Larry Tobin, Tom Strowe, Jr and Rev. Brooks Smith.

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GIRL SCOUTS EXPLORE FAITHS AND EARN RELIGIOUS AWARDS

Submitted by Kerry Rokicki

Recently several Girl Scouts of Cranford undertook individual endeavors to earn religious recognitions from their respective faiths. While Girl Scouts is a secular organization, it encourages girls to take spiritual journeys



(above) Girl Scout Junior Isabella Reibarkh earned the Jewish Lehavah Award and worked with her mother to learn more about her heritage and religion.

through the exploration of religion. “As a Girl Scout, I promise to serve God and my country, to help people at all times and to live by the Girl Scout Law,” explained Isabella Reibarkh, who recently earned the Lehavah Award for the Jewish faith. “This law is true no matter what religion you are.”

Julia and Molly Love, a Girl Scout Ambassador and a Girl Scout Senior respectively, each earned the Alpha Omega Award which is the Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting’s religious award for Girl Scouts in grades 6 – 12. Both girls worked with the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church to complete the award. Julia is a junior at Cranford High School and Molly is a freshman at Union County Vocational-Technical School (UCVTS).

“Earning my Alpha Omega Award was a great way to learn more about my faith and how to apply it to other areas of my life, like scouting” said, Julia.

Girl Scout Junior Isabella Reibarkh earned the Jewish Lehavah Award and worked with her mother to learn about her heritage and religion. “There are not many Jewish girls in our service unit or my troop and I wanted to earn an award that was special to me,” explained Isabella. “The name of the Jewish award is Lehavah which means flame. This award is given to those girls that are able to make a connection between Girl Scouts and their Jewish religion. I had to look

inside myself to be able to answer questions that were a part of this award. I am proud to wear my Jewish pin. It makes me feel unique and proud.”

Members of the Girls Scouts of Cranford also participated in the religious award program offered by the parish of Saint Michael in Cranford which is designed to allow girls of all levels to explore the Catholic faith. Violet Tallon, a Girl Scout Brownie, earned the “Family of God” award and Addison Stroh, a Girl Scout Junior, earned the “I Live My Faith” award. These recognitions were bestowed at a service at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. Additionally, three Girl Scouts earned their “Our Lady of Guadalupe” patch by learning more about the appearance and miracles of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico almost 500 years ago. They are Grace Santos, Lila Schau and Violet Tallon. Grace is a Girl Scout Daisy and Lila is a Girl Scout Senior.

The Girl Scouts of Cranford boasts over 1,139 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 www.cranfordgirlscouts.com.



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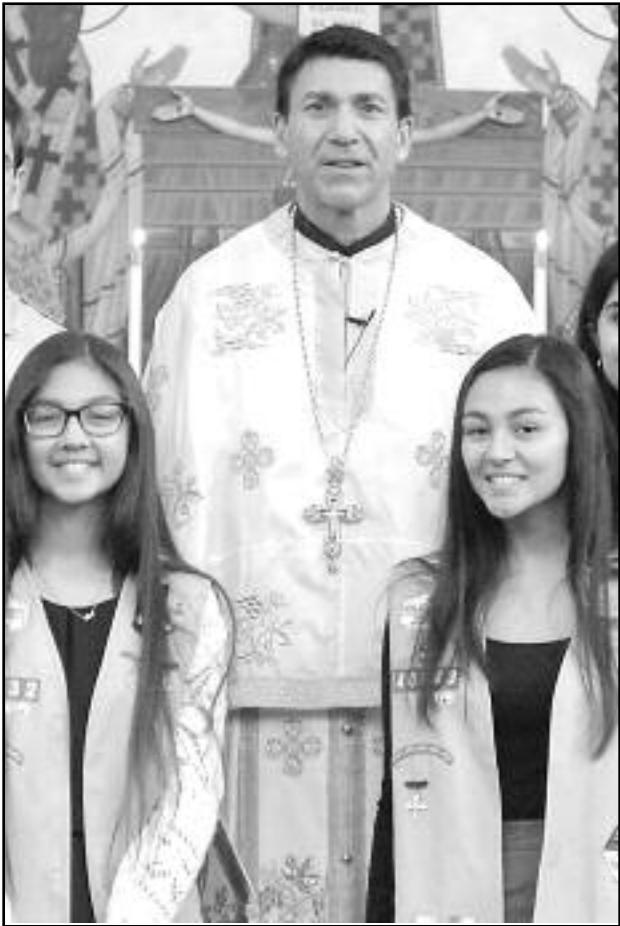
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RELIGIOUS AWARDS (continued from page 16)



(above) Violet Tallon, a Girl Scout Brownie, earned the “Family of God” award and Addison Stroh, a Girl Scout Junior, earned the “I Live My Faith” award. These recognitions were bestowed at a service at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark.



(above) Julia and Molly Love, a Girl Scout Ambassador and a Girl Scout Senior respectively, each earned the Alpha Omega Award which is the Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting’s religious award for Girl Scouts in grades 6 – 12.

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NJ PRIMARY ELECTIONS MOVED TO JULY 7, 2020

Executive Order 120 postpones primary elections on Tuesday, June 2 to Tuesday, July 7 in response to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Includes primaries for President, US Senate, US House of Rep, 25th District NJ Legislature, county and municipal elections.

Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi advised voters at risk to plan ahead and use a Vote-by-Mail ballot to participate in the upcoming Primary Election, in accordance with guidance from health officials regarding the coronavirus COVID-19.

"Persons at risk are being advised to avoid crowded situations and maintain social distance," said Ms. Rajoppi. "With the outbreak of COVID-19, there is all the more reason to use a Vote-by-Mail ballot and ensure your voice is heard on Election Day."

Under New Jersey state law, any eligible voter can use a Vote-by-Mail ballot. There is no requirement to provide a reason.

"Every Vote-by-Mail ballot is counted in every

election, the same as for in-person voting," Ms. Rajoppi said.

Voters are advised to use Vote-by-Mail as a matter of routine, to avoid any unforeseen circumstances that could prevent them from voting in person on Election Day.

Voters who have never used a Vote-by-Mail ballot can apply for one now, by visiting the County Clerk's elections website at unioncountylvotes.com for a downloadable version. To have an application sent by mail, call the County Clerk's Elections Division at 908-527-4996.

After the Vote-by-Mail application is approved, the voter will receive their ballot prior to Election Day. This year, the Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, June 2 in New Jersey. The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3.

For more information about all County Clerk programs and services, visit online at ucnj.org/county-clerk or call 908-527-4787.

COVID-19 SCAM WARNING

The New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs is alerting consumers to be aware of a number of apparent scams related to COVID-19. To avoid this and some of the tactics being reported as possible scams, the Division recommends:

Don't let CDC imposters into your home. Representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are not going door-to-door seeking information or conducting surveillance on COVID-19. Imposters should be reported to local authorities and the Division.

Don't fall for fake cures. Beware of in-store or online advertisements for products that claim to cure or prevent COVID-19 or other similar offers. No cure or preventative medicine has been approved for sale.

Look out for phishing emails. Cybercriminals may take advantage of global concern and interest in COVID-19 to try to convince email recipients to open links or attachments that may direct them to malicious websites or deliver malware. Stay away from COVID-19 related information that does not come from a trusted

source, to avoid exposing your personal information.

Keep in mind not everything online may be factual. The internet is full of information, but be mindful of its accuracy. As false reports spread regarding the origination and spread of COVID-19, rely only on trusted sources for information.

Be wary of unsolicited calls. Whether they are offering health insurance, including to supplement Medicare or Medicaid benefits, or a cure or treatment for COVID-19, refrain from sharing your personal information over the phone, unless you have initiated the call.

Avoid internet adoption scams. Scammers are falsely misrepresenting themselves as CDC employees, and asking victims to send money overseas to adopt a pet being held at a quarantine station. The CDC does not quarantine pets or would not ask for payment to bring an animal into the U.S.

For more information please visit njconsumeraffairs.gov/.../C19-Scam-Warnings.aspx

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CRANFORD FUND FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE HOSTS 5TH ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT

Proceeds to benefit grant requests for innovation and excellence in our classrooms

The Cranford Fund for Educational Excellence (CFEE) hosted its 5th Annual Trivia Night competition on Saturday, February 22 at the Kenilworth VFW. Over 400 people were in attendance, with 41 teams vying for the championship. The competition was strong, music by DJ Randy Geis was lively, and spirits were high. Emcee for the evening, Gary Pascal, presented six rounds of tough questions created by a board committee that was led by Trivia Master, Brian Andrews.

CFEE proudly featured 48 businesses and 15 families who sponsored the event ranging from \$100 to \$2,500, with Lincoln Investments, The Cranford Jaycees, and Boxcar serving as Vice Principal and Facilities Directors sponsors, along with TimberRidge Construction, Keating Physical Therapy, New Jersey Family Medical, and Julie and Jim Murphy, CHS Class of '78 as Academic Deans.

With team entry fees, 500+ raffle tickets sold in the 50/50, and philanthropic donations, more than \$30,000 was raised and the proceeds from the event will help to fund this year's requests made by our District's educators.

Superintendent, and Trivia Night participant, Dr. Scott Rubin spoke during the "recess" portion of the evening stating, "I always say, one of the things that makes Cranford such a wonderful community is the fact that there's no lack of support, especially when it comes to our children. There's nothing we won't do, and I'm so honored to be a part of a community that feels that way. I want to just, on behalf of the board of education, our faculty, our students, just thank you ... for all of your support."

The trivia scores were extremely close, ranging from 31 to 50 out of a possible 56, so it was anyone's trophy for the taking! Congratulations to 1st Place with 50 points- Team Tequila Mockingbird: Susan Burke, Tim Matheson, Amy Imhof, Roger Imhof, Karyn Keating, Scott Keating, Caroline Colyer, Chris Colyer, Sarah Oliver, and John Oliver. In a sudden death tie-breaker for 2nd and 3rd Place, three teams: We Drink and Sometimes Know Things, Cobra Kai, and Cranford Welcome Committee, guessed how many minutes total was The Godfather and The Godfather II movies combined? We Drink and Sometimes Know Things (Lauren Lanier, Adam Lanier, Wendy Lyubarsky, Alex Lyubarsky, Stephanie Levine,

Craig Ashinoff, Noreen Matlosz, Ryan Matlosz, Libby Newman, and Andy Ehart) came out with the 2nd place win and Cranford Welcome Committee (Nicole Cippoletti, Rick Cippoletti, Rebecca Trump, Matt Trump, Beth Johns, Jay Johns, Shalon Piccuiro, Mike Piccuiro, Lauren Battaglino, and John Battaglino) came in 3rd. Cobra Kai (Cameron Welch, Carolyn Welch, Joe Baldoni, Katie Baldoni, Jen Semler, Geoff Semler, Brian Wing, Jill Wing, Carrie Moran, and Joey Moran) will hopefully be back next year to try again.

Our trivia teams this year were more creative than ever! Our Spirit Awards reflect the amazing amount of fun that was had by all at this special event. Class Clown - The Shenanigans: Kristen Mider, Zach Mider, Kerry Durante, Anthony Durante, Alexis Degan, Anthony Shapella, Madhavi Guven, Murat Guven, Jessica Sinnott, George Sinnott; Most Likely to Succeed - The Clues Brothers: Faith Dzurovcik McDevitt, Peter McDevitt, Andy Dzurovcik, Geoff Cleveland, Mike Bonneville, Beth Bonneville, Ray Wallin, Cara Macaluso, Romy Malin, Dan Malin; Most Team Spirited - Quizzzy McQuizface: Cristine

Grace, Marcy Kielczynski, Lisa Jellett, Walter Risse, Jessica Soltys, Mike Soltys, Anthony Rossetti, Vanga Stoilov, Mallory Reardon, Will Reardon; Best Dressed - Golden Girls: Annette Gosier, Ellen Mufti, Pauline O'Leary, Stephanie Levinson, Danielle Decostello, Ginette Bracke, Jennifer McConnell, Josephine Cortese, Inga Reibarkh.

The Cranford Fund for Educational Excellence, relaunched in 2014, is a nonprofit, Cranford-based foundation that supports excellence and innovation in the Cranford public schools by generating resources through community involvement. The grants are awarded to teachers and staff who apply for them, and benefit students across the school district. Since 2016, the CFEE has awarded over \$70,000 in grants in categories such as: Differentiated or personalized education, technology integration and 21st-century skills, innovation zones/makerspaces, and classroom design.

If you'd like more information or to contribute to this year's efforts, please visit our website at cranfordfund.org. You also may send a check to PO Box 1627, Cranford, NJ 07016.



(above) First place team Tequila Mockingbird: Susan Burke, Tim Matheson, Amy Imhof, Roger Imhof, Karyn Keating, Scott Keating, Caroline Colyer, Chris Colyer, Sarah Oliver, and John Oliver.



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CALLING ALL GEEKS, NERDS, AND GAWKERS

Renna Media is putting a call out to the Geeks among us to appear on their podcast *Mind Your Own Local Business*. The show will showcase local businesses and people who are starting or growing a business, especially those in creative fields or doing something they have a passion for. Owner, Joe Renna, started his business in 1984 as a graphic designer that grew his studio into a marketing and advertising company. Now, along with his wife Tina, publishes 21 community monthly newspapers mailing out 135,000 to every home and business.

Joe says "I started my business right out of college and thought I would get a job if it didn't work out. It's been thirty five years and I never looked back. I thank all those who mentored me along the way, experienced business owners who were generous with their time and taught me best practices in running a businesses and the pitfalls to look out for."

As a way of paying it forward, Joe offers business and advertising advice to local business. This service is the focus of a new YouTube show. Joe Renna's Hyper Local Network is the YouTube Channel of Renna Media. *Mind Your Own Local Business* is the prime show. Its first episode will feature Katya Stec of Clark, New Jersey who launched her production company All Ages of Geek. Katya has teamed up with Renna Media made her platform, with over 100,000 subscribers, available to Renna Media advertisers and organizations.

Renna Media is recruiting businesses to participate. If you're a Geek or just Geek curious, a variety of advertising opportunities exist, from product placement to fully customized shows. All online advertisers will also be featured in the *Mind Your Own Local Business* column in 135,000 newspapers!

To learn more call Joe Renna at 908-447-1295 or email him at joerenna@rennamedia.com.



HOW TO SUCCEED DOING-WHAT-YOU-LOVE
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starting and growing your business

Featured on Renna Media's YouTube Channel: Joe Renna's Hyper Local Network

KATYA STEC LAUNCHES ALL AGES OF GEEK

Geek culture knows no bounds. It crosses every social barrier and unites an eclectic group of people who share specific interests. The label, which usually is thrust upon a person, is now worn with pride. Geeks who historically existed at the fringes of the pop culture are now mainstream. Their ranks are filled with regular folks. And the nerds of the baby boomer generation have joined the ranks.

The internet has given rise to a secret society. The image of a nerd playing video games in his parents' basement has been shattered. Geeks are among the masses, living, working, and playing next to regular folk. All Ages of Geek is a multimedia production company that speaks to them.

Katya Stec is a self-proclaimed geek from Clark, New Jersey who formed All Ages of Geek in 2019, with the core focus of producing content in tandem with the geek culture. She has been creating videos for eight years and has over 700 episodes posted on her website and on YouTube. She now has over 100,000 subscribers clocking over 20 million views!

Katya, who is a talented voice over artist and writer, is a product of home schooling where she was able to cultivate her interests. Now, at 26 years old, she has a career, doing what she loves.

Throughout 2020 All Ages of Geek will be traveling to several geek culture events, conventions, and expos. They aim at making some of the best high-quality content. At the same time, mass awareness and promotion campaigns would be in swing to set the base for their big launch in January 2021.

Katya has built a team of talented, creative fans who work together in producing podcasts and shows. All Ages of Geek has an article section on their website titled "This Just In." Their writers, who are from all parts of the world, submit weekly articles covering geek

culture events, topics and all forms of creativity.

Currently, they are also producing several video series and podcasts. The company is hopeful of churning out some of the best content and gathering a good base of loyal fans that would engage with the whole community and keep sharing their content to help them amass even more views, exposure, and popularity.

Katya says "Geek culture is what brings the world together. Despite our differences in race, religion, sexuality, and background. One thing is certain about geek culture, it unites us. All Ages of Geek's mission isn't just to entertain; it's to unite the geeks of all ages as part of an interactive community."

The company has a strong interactive community on YouTube and Twitch. The sense of community is both important and powerful and it does wonders when it comes to promoting the firm in the long run.

Their content spans different genres and caters to kids and adults alike. No doubt, if their vision manages to take the due shape, they are likely to become a massive hit among people, especially anime, video games and Dungeons and Dragons fans alike who would finally feel like they too truly belong.

All Ages of Geek has plenty of free content but viewers can access a lot more features by becoming paid members on Patreon or Twitch. They have over 300 members to date with a goal of 1,000 by 2021. They offer advertising opportunities, and their production team can produce original content for businesses and organizations.

To learn more about All Ages of Geek visit: allagesofgeek.com/

Email-id: pr@allagesofgeek.com

Website: <https://allagesofgeek.com>

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(above) Katya Stec on set in her home studio in Clark, New Jersey, where she produces shows for her All Ages of Geek broadcasts. Photo by Tatiana Szewczuk.

THE CRANFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY WOULD LIKE YOU TO BE PART OF HISTORY

Dear Residents, Township Committee, Mayor, Police Dept., Fire Dept., First Aid EMT's, Store owners, Store workers, Doctors, Nurses, Postal workers, DPW workers, Churches, Schools, Organizations and anyone else who has a role in the community:

During these challenging times we are going through with the Coronavirus, we are going through it together. This virus will be a thing of the past leaving this fantastic town even a stronger community. We would like to ask you to please help us document life in Cranford during the pandemic of 2020. Future generations will want to know what daily life was like, how our lives changed, how we coped with the challenges we faced, how we celebrated recent Holiday events with and without family during this time and what you plan to do after this pandemic is long gone. We all have a story to tell so please share it with us. Your story along with any photo's and any artifacts you may have during this time

will be appreciated and saved in our Archives and used to tell Cranford's response to the pandemic of 2020.

We would like to hear from you either by email or write to us. Our email address is: cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net. Our mailing address is: Cranford Historical Society, 38 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, N.J. 07016.

If you would like to become a member of the Cranford Historical Society our membership form is on our website at cranfordhistoricalsociety.org. See us also on Facebook. Our new website will be coming soon with more informative information preserving the History of Cranford.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Stay Well, Stay Happy, Stay Safe, Keep Smiling.

Sincerely,
Margaret Gerlach/President
Cranford Historical Society

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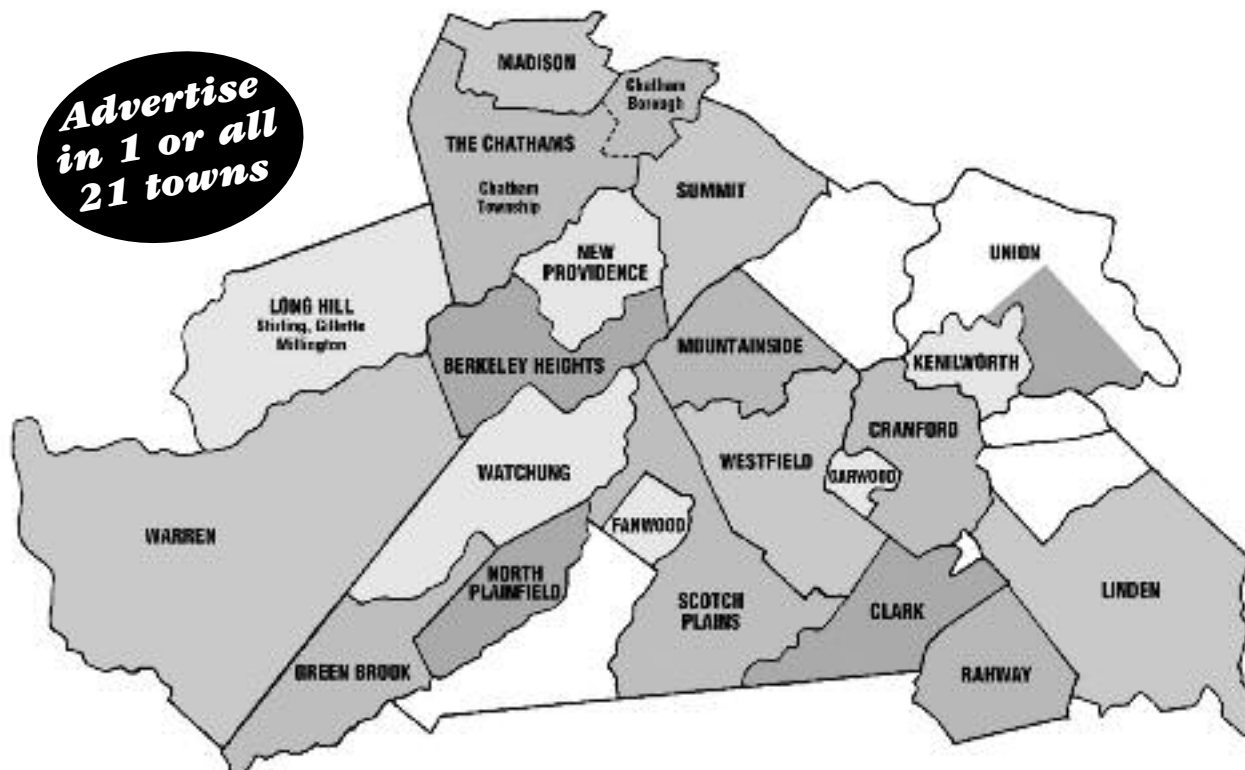
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RENNA MEDIA COLLABORATES WITH ALL AGES OF GEEK

Katya Stec reached out to Joe Renna of Renna Media when she was a teen exploring opportunities to express her creativity in his newspapers. Renna Media publishes twenty-one community newspapers and has an active web presence and social media network. Through the years, Katya has developed her own online media production platform and made her service available to Renna Media's readership and advertisers.

Renna Media has been in business since 1984. The focus of its publications is to promote community service organizations to a hyper-local market. Joe and his wife Tina deliver marketing, advertising and publishing services to local businesses and organizations, in-print and on line. They have joined forces with NJlocalinfo.com to offer website, SEO and social media services. By collaborating with All Ages of Geek they are able to offer video production and hosting.

Joe admits he has Geeky tendencies and shared "I have many Geeks among the folks I deal with on a day to day basis. The Geek culture is prevalent and is revealed when you get to know colleagues on a personal level. It would be fun to showcase businesses and people in my newspaper and in video. It is a great marketing tool and an ice breaker to connect businesses to like-minded customers."

Renna Media and All Ages of Geek has developed a simple inexpensive menu of production services for businesses to make a foray into online marketing. The all inclusive packages are:

- Product placement \$250
- 30 second commercial \$500
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- 30 minute show \$1,500
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All videos will also be blasted through the an extensive social media network and the business will be featured in the newspapers, driving readers to the websites. The approach follows the model of Renna Media's newspapers: Delivering hometown community service news to a hyper-local audience, at affordable rates.

Businesses or organizations who would like more information or help with their marketing plans can call Joe Renna at 908-447-1295.

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Sundays: 8:30 am - 3 pm

908-688-8333

528 N. Michigan Ave. Kenilworth, NJ

**We accommodate the trade as well as the
do-it-yourselfers! We are always ready to assist.**

FREE
Same Day Delivery
5-Yards or more

LAWN & GARDEN



Grass – Seed
Fertilizers
Peat Moss



Polymeric Sand
Paver Sealer
Paver Cleaner

HARDSCAPE

- Cement
- Concrete Block
- Belgium Block
- Curbing
- Limestone Treads
- Diamond Blades

TOOLS

- Mason Tools
- Shovels
- Rakes

DRAINAGE

- Catch Basins
- Pipe

SOIL

Prices
per yard

Black Topsoil\$36

MULCH

Black Dyed.....\$30

Brown Dyed.....\$30

Red Dyed.....\$32

Hardwood.....\$24

QUARRY BASE MATERIALS

Concrete Sand.....\$50

3/4 Clean Stone.....\$40

Stone Dust.....\$34

QP\$36

DECORATIVE STONE

3/8 Red Stone\$74

3/4 Red Stone\$70

3/4 Goose Egg\$94

1 1/2-3 Goose Egg.....\$98

3/4 Arctic White.....\$94

3/8 Riverbed / Pea Gravel.....\$60

1 Riverbed\$68

1 1/2-3 Riverbed.....\$76

Prices subject to change without notice.

Bon Tool Co.

**Largest Display
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Waterfalls • Fireplaces • Fire Pits • Walls • Walkways • Patios • Curbs