CRANFORD MONTHLYNJ

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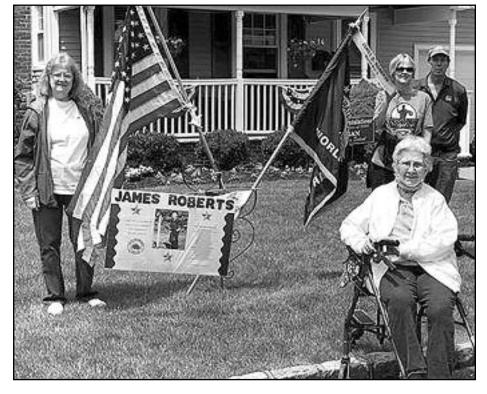
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A SOCIALLY DISTANCED MEMORIAL DAY INSPIRED GREATER AWARENESS OF THE CRANFORD 86

Submitted by Cranford 86 writers Don Sweeney & Janet Ashnault

While in the midst of a pandemic, and under strict regulations on all public gatherings as decreed by our governor, Memorial Day 2020 arrived. Memorial Day is an important event on our township's calendar. Cranford's steadfast dedication to its 99-year tradition of parade and ceremony has left an imprint on generations of its residents as to the true meaning of this special holiday. With the traditional events canceled, it seemed a daunting task to be able to conduct a day of respect equal to what is deserved by those young men who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. But out of the disappointment and confusion, creativity arose and what transpired was a pleasant surprise to everyone involved.

Under normal conditions, in our parade, Cranford Boy and Girl Scouts and First Aid Squad members carry 86 War Veteran flags, each representative of a fallen hero from Cranford. As a Boy Scout Troop 80 dad, Mayor Patrick Giblin noted his son's excitement each year to carry Newell Rodney Fiske's flag in the parade. Along with that task is the added responsibility to dip the flag when Newell's name is read during the postparade ceremony. Living on Fiske Terrace, this had become an important family tradition and it appeared that it would be yet another thing disrupted due to the Covid-19 crisis. However, one week before Memorial Day, Mayor Giblin announced the "host-a-flag" initiative. Implemented using Facebook networking and SignUpGenius, the 86 flags were quickly signedout by scouts and residents across town. On Friday they were available for pick-up at the Community Center. Each family was asked to honor their chosen serviceman by displaying the flag in a creative way and sharing their memorial display on social media. In keeping with the Cranford 86 mission of "see their faces" and "know their stories" each flag was attached with an envelope for the host family containing a brief history of their hero and a photo if available. Distribution of these 86 flags throughout our community became a new and innovative way to



(above) The Roberts family members visiting the mini-memorial at the Leahy home on Roger Avenue, honoring their beloved Uncle Jimmy.
(Back, l-r) Donna Smith Roberts, Leslie & John Roberts. (front)
Dolores Roberts Benoit, sister-in-law of Jimmy Roberts. Roberts lost his life on the USS Canberra off the coast of Taiwan when a radio operated torpedo struck the engine room in which he was working.

show respect to our Cranford 86. It was aptly described by Facebook commenter Annette Deering, "I can't think of a more fitting way to acknowledge & thank the Cranford 86. This showing of their flags today brings them back home into our neighborhoods, our minds & our hearts. From a most humble former Cranford resident, I thank you ALL for your service and pray to the Lord to bless you and our nation."

The success of the host-a-flag program went beyond everyone's expectations. Local Facebook pages overflowed with posts of beautiful flag displays. Residents showed creativity in their tributes with multiframed information pages and custom-made signs and streamers. Each neighborhood became enlightened, and in some cases awakened, by the images and stories. These were young men that once walked these same streets, before heading off to war, never to return home to Cranford. The flags, which have been a staple in Cranford's Memorial Day observance for dozens of years, have found an expanded audience and an additional venue in which to be displayed. After hosting a flag, several families have decided to sponsor their serviceman's Cranford 86 street banner.

With the 86 flags in place throughout town, Cranford's official (continued on page 11)



CRANFORD MONTHLYNJ

Cranford Monthly is published by Renna Media. 9,500 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Cranford.

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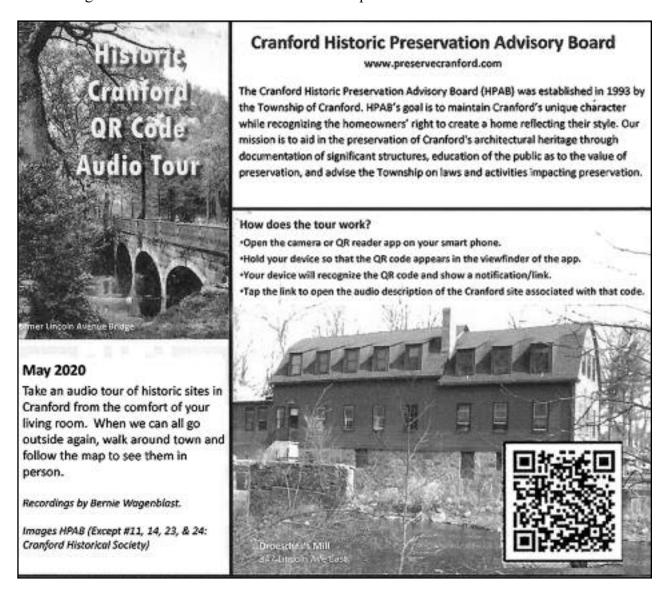
ARMCHAIR HISTORY TOUR OF CRANFORD AVAILABLE

Take an audio tour of historic Cranford from the comfort of your living room. The Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB) has created an armchair tour of 25 historic sites in Cranford.

A brochure for the tour can be downloaded from HPAB's website, preservecranford.com. You take the tour by holding your smart phone over a QR code provided in the brochure. Your phone will recognize the code and provide a link to a description of the location recorded by Bernie Wagenblast.

The tour includes downtown buildings like the William Sperry Building, the Masonic Building, and the Jahn Building, and sites such as Droescher's Mill and the Sperry Observatory. Some of the structures on the tour, for example the Opera House Block and Hampton Hall, no longer exist but you can hear about their history. The brochure also includes a photo of each site and a map that shows the locations.

When the quarantine is over, you can walk around town and follow the map to see the sites in person.

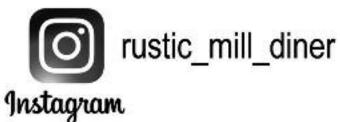


(above) Download the brochure for the audio tour of historic Cranford at preservecranford.com.









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CRANFORD KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SUPPORT COMMUNITY DURING CRISIS

Knights of Columbus Council #6226 has been very active in our support of the Cranford Community through donations and charitable works.

The Council made a \$500 donation to Cranford Family Care to assist this fine organization during these difficult times. The Council also purchased \$1,000 of gift cards from local establishments and donated them to

During the COVID 19 crisis, the Cranford the Cranford PBA, FMBA and the Cranford Catholic Fraternal Organization dedicated to First Aid Squad and many others in need. On Saturday, May 9, Brothers Knights gathered in St. Michael's School parking lot and collected over 6 full boxes of food items for the Cranford PBA Food Drive and presented them that day. Soon, the Scholarship Committee will make an announcement of our Annual Scholarship Award winners.

The Cranford Knights of Columbus is a

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 be 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) The Cranford Knights collected over 6 full boxes of food items for the Cranford PBA Food Drive.



(above) Pictured during a collection for the Cranford PBA Food Drive are Deputy Grand Knight Jerry Conheeney, Past Grand Knight Pat Forker, Brother Anthony Messina and Past Grand Knight and District Deputy Jim Vari.



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CRANFORD FUND FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE RESPONDS TO ONLINE LEARNING AT HOME

The Cranford Fund for Educational Excellence is proud to provide 2019-2020 financial grant support to the Cranford School District in the implementation of digital safety management program Gaggle:

www.gaggle.net/product/gaggle-safetymanagement/

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This program encourages a safe digital learning environment by analyzing file content like inbound/outbound emails, online file storage, links to websites, and attachments for drug and alcohol use, intentions of violence, sexual content, self-harm, hate speech, and pornography.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Brian Heineman, states, "Gaggle is a best in class software that allows us to monitor the work students are doing online, identify potential issues, and rapidly address them. My prior experiences with the software were very positive and it is in use by many districts in NJ."

During this continually evolving educational landscape, the CFEE has demonstrated its responsiveness to the most immediate needs to

best support educators. 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 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.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Submitted by Kathy Willis, Cranford Family Care Association

Cranford Family Care Association sends their you yourself have always helped others, sincere thank you to all our neighbors and friends that have donated to our 2020 Pandemic fund for our Cranford neighbors.

very grateful. We are waiting to hear from folks that could use some help at this time. We understand that you may be hesitant to apply as

Cranford is like a family we do care and want to help, please understand this is all confidential no one, not even the board of directors, will know You have been most generous, and we are your name or address. We just want to give you a true gift of love and concern that will lift your spirits and make your day brighter. So give me a call at 908-276-3530.



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We know how important financial security is at this time, so let's work together to protect both your health and finances.



















An Important Message to our Community

Your Safety is our Top Concern!





Gary S. Horan Victor M. Richel

hank you for your overwhelming support during this pandemic. Businesses, restaurants, community organizations, religious groups and many, many individuals have reached out to show our staff that they're valued. We are very appreciative.

Stay Safe

Although the number of cases in New Jersey is declining, it is very important that we don't let down our guard. Continue to be safe by wearing face masks, washing your hands and practicing social distancing.

Above all, do not ignore your health. Don't become so focused on the COVID-19 pandemic that you neglect symptoms of serious disease like stroke, heart attack, and of course any serious injury. Chest pain, bleeding, shortness of breath, loss of muscular control, severe pain or dizziness, drug overdose, severe depression or anxiety, suicidal thoughts...these are just some of the serious symptoms that should be treated in a hospital.

You can feel confident coming to the Emergency Room for any health emergency.

Keeping You Safe

Here are the steps we are taking to keep you safe during the pandemic:

- Everyone who enters the Medical Center is screened for fever and given a face mask
- Patients with COVID-19 symptoms are separated from patients who do not have symptoms, and their treatment is governed by strict infection control protocols
- Each member of our staff is trained regularly in infection control and prevention procedures, and in the use of personal protective equipment
- All areas of the Medical Center are cleaned consistently and thoroughly, and all patient rooms undergo a deep cleaning using several steps including state-of-the-art ultraviolet technology



To fight COVID, Trinitas purchased an additional Surficide unit that automatically disinfects every surface in every room where a patient has been treated.

What's Ahead

We are planning to reopen services including elective surgery, diagnostic procedures and outpatient testing - but only when it is safe to do so. Our experienced staff is conquering COVID and is ready and willing to care for all your health needs again.

As we start to return to normal in the coming weeks we ask that you stay safe, keep social distancing, wash your hands, wear a mask, and don't hesitate to seek medical attention if there is a need.

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FARTING.

(above) Brian Shapiro shows off his Volvo Cross Country.



CAR DONATION PROGRAM GIVES WHEELS TO REAL PEOPLE

What does it mean to have your own car? For longtime Community Access Unlimited (CAU) member Brian Shapiro, it means both stability and freedom. Before he had a car, Brian had to get a ride from a friend or take an Uber to his job driving a cab in Bloomfield. director, mpagan@Vehicle those the needing owner of

"It's a lot easier," Brian said, thanks to the Volvo he received as a donation through Community Access Unlimited this fall. "I go to work and take my son places."

CAU started the vehicle donation program as a way to aid youth and individuals with disabilities who wished to complete their drivers test and gain the independence that comes with owning a vehicle. Now Brian can easily travel to the job he has had for nearly 20 years. Many have already benefited from the donation of reliable cars to get them where they need to go- from work and school to social functions.

"I've known about it for a while and it finally worked out," Brian said.

Unlike other car donation programs, CAU does not sell or scrap donated cars, receiving only a percentage of their value. By donating a vehicle to CAU, 100% of your donation will go to a person with transportation needs.

Those interested in donating a car should contact Mercedes Pagan, fundraising and event

director, at 908-354-3040 x4376 or mpagan@caunj.org.

Vehicles that may qualify for donation include those that are new, gently used, or vehicles needing minor body or mechanical work. The owner of the car must have the title at the time of donation. Car donors will receive a donation letter which can serve as a charitable donation, which is tax deductible.

Learn more about donating to or volunteering with CAU at caunj.org/support-us.

ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating its 40th year in 2019, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU gives a voice to adults and youth who traditionally have little power in society, assisting its members with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil rights. Currently serving more than 5,000 individuals and families, CAU continues to grow each year. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908-354-3040, info@cauni.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.

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JULIENNE CHERRY TAKES HELM AT CHILD ADVOCACY GROUP CASA

Submitted by Gretchen M. Boger-O'Bryan

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County is pleased to announce the selection of Julienne Cherry as its new Executive Director. The organization recruits, trains, supervises and supports community volunteers to



(above) Julienne Cherry has joined Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County as its new Executive Director.

advocate for abused, neglected and abandoned Union County youth removed from home and living in foster care.

"Julienne's history in the nonprofit arena, as well as her experience, knowledge and connections within the state, make her ideal to lead CASA of Union County. The board is excited to welcome her to the organization just as it celebrates 15 years of advocacy for our community's foster youth," said Dr. Ron Silver, president of the organization's Board of Trustees.

She joins the Elizabeth-based nonprofit from the Community Food Bank of New Jersey in Hillside, where she was Director of Agency Relations, overseeing more than 1,000 feeding programs in eight New Jersey counties. Among Cherry's community service efforts in Union County are serving on the board of Moms Helping Moms, a diaper and baby supply bank in Plainfield, and remaining active with the local chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Eta Omicron Zeta, including serving as its Health Fair Chair. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Kean University.

"I'm very thankful for the wonderful opportunity to join the CASA family," said Cherry. "As a resident of Union County, this new position aligns perfectly with the last 20-plus a foster child, years I've devoted to advocating for our community's underserved and voiceless. I'm or Call 908-293-8136.

looking forward to meeting with key stakeholders and community members to help move our mission forward. Ensuring the best interests of every Union County youth in foster care through no fault of their own will remain my top priority. As the organization reaches its 15th year of advocacy, the goal continues to be providing an advocate for every fragile youth that needs one. To do this, we need the support of our village. From monthly gives, employer matches and event sponsorships to corporate and business partnerships, every dollar of support for our small-but-mighty nonprofit directly impacts how many waiting foster youth we can reach. Simply, writing a check means writing another chapter. Help us Change a Child's Story."

Through court-ordered access to foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, CASA volunteers ensure the best interests of foster youth remain a priority while parties work toward establishing a safe, stable and permanent home. There are nearly 500 Union County youth in foster care and the organization currently serves just over half those. Its goal is to provide an advocate for every youth that needs one.

To make a tax-deductible donation, log on to casaofunioncounty.org/donate.

To learn about how to become an advocate for a foster child, contact Courtney at cgreen@casaofunioncounty.org or Call 908-293-8136.

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A SOCIALLY DISTANCED MEMORIAL DAY

(continued from page 1)

Memorial Day ceremony took place on Monday morning at Memorial Park on Springfield Ave. There were less than 10 participants, and no spectators, but it was broadcast live on TV35 and on Facebook. Despite the Covid-19 restrictions, VFW Commander Colonel Drew Burns conducted the program with the dignity and decorum that we have come to expect on Memorial Day in Cranford. After a short speech by State Senator Tom Kean, Mayor Pat Giblin acknowledged the six Cranford 86 members that were reintroduced this year in the Cranford Monthly. Post Chaplain James Silkensen offered an opening prayer before the names of the Cranford 86 were read by himself and Drew Burns. Wreaths were placed by the Cranford Police and Fire Departments and VFW Post 335, which will decorate the park's monument for months to follow. Mayor Giblin and Commander Burns tossed a wreath into the Rahway River in memory of the many Cranford 86 lost at sea. The ceremony ended with the color guard's impressive gun salute, Taps by Philip Schroeder and Amazing Grace by bagpiper Michael Glackin. As they have since the parade's inception, the always impressive, well-drilled color guard of the Cranford VFW closed the ceremony. This year instead of standing shoulderto-shoulder, they were spaced appropriately and wearing masks. From beginning to end the ceremony was a concise 30 minutes and as always, conveyed the proper amount of respect due to our fallen servicemen. Between inclement weather and a global pandemic on Memorial Day, only 2 of the last five years have been celebrated in the conventional manner. Although the parade may sometimes get canceled, nothing prevents the conducting of this ceremony and the reading of the names of Cranford's 86.

Continuing Cranford's observance, the Cranford 86 street banners that have decorated Memorial Park since 2018 were put on display for the day. Numbering 27 so far, they swung gently in the breeze as passersby became acquainted with the faces of these men to whom

we owe so much.

Another special moment occurred at 10 a.m. when 325 Cranford Girl Scouts at locations all around town, honored the Cranford 86 as they recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Each held a handmade poster featuring the name of one of our Cranford heroes and then sang God Bless America to neighborhood audiences.

The TV35 programming throughout the day included Cranford 86's dedication of the Hometown Heroes whose stories were completed this past year. These included, Vietnam Army Corp of Engineer Marcus Anderson, WWII Naval Cadet Harold Johnson, WWII Seaman First Class Friend Burton, WWII Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Patrick Castaldo, WWII Sergeant William Lee and WWII Sergeant Augustine D'Alessandris. These stories are available to be read online at Cranford86.org or by purchasing a tribute book by calling the Cranford86 project at 908-272-0876.

On the streets of Sunny Acres, our town's only official historic district, a masked, socially distanced mini parade was organized on Mohawk Drive. Some antique cars with a small group of Boy and Girl Scouts carrying Cranford 86 flags marched to recorded music to honor the brave heroes that we have lost. As they passed, neighbors waved from front yard gatherings of less than 25 people.

All in all, Cranford's Memorial Day commemoration of 2020 should go down in history as a complete success. Families that would have normally been out of town if Covid-19 restrictions weren't in place, hopefully have been introduced to Cranford's strong devotion to the traditions of this important day. We feel that hundreds of people learned of the Cranford 86 when they were touched by at least one display, photo, story or song which came from the outpouring of respect and gratitude shown in the various events of the weekend. We all should be immensely proud of our town of Cranford and the manner in which they honor the memory of our fallen heroes. What a great place to live.

"Family care for newborns through 100"



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CRANFORD 86 BOOK FATHER'S DAY GIFT

The stories of 27 amazing Cranford kids makes a great gift for a Cranford Dad or Granddad.

Cranford 86 Hometown Heroes

- Volume 3 and 1-3 Available Now!

Consider these Color, Spiral-Bound Volumes as Father's Day Gifts.

Now available in hardcopy are the stories of 27 of Cranford's 86, those brave Cranford residents that stepped forward to defend our freedom, never to return to the town that they called home. Filled with detailed facts and color photos, these volumes will immerse you in vivid history. Follow the lives of these selfless men who started out life as just kids from Cranford. Read endearing descriptions of their young lives in town and then onto unbelievable moments in history of which our local heroes were an integral part.

Purchasing and sharing these volumes is a wonderful way to show respect to the Cranford 86 and will help to raise awareness about our project. Stay with us as we advance to our goal of completing all 86 stories!

CRANFORD 86 HOMETOWN HEROES

Vol.3 – Contains the 6 servicemen's stories published in Cranford Monthly in 2020.

40 pages - \$20.00

Vol. 1-3 Collectively contains the 27 of the Cranford 86 stories published to date.

120 pages - \$35.00

To order call 908-447-6511 or email info@cranford86.org. Price represents our printing costs only.

Free in-town home delivery or postage prices quoted upon ordering.

Many supporters have used this yearly opportunity to support our cause with an additional donation.

This is the foldout cover of both books, on the flip side is the spreadsheet of all the Cranford 86 Hometown Heroes.

CRANFORD 86

Those who gave thier lives in service to our country.

DID YOU KNOW ONE OF THE CRANFORD 86?

You can email us with any information info@cranford86.org or call Don Sweeney 908-447-6511.



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

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

Email: info@cranford86.org or call Don Sweeney at 908-272-0876

(above) Former Grand Marshal and Post Chaplain James Silkensen offers an opening prayer for the brave men that have laid down their lives for the defense of freedom as well as those who have passed from the covid-19 crisis. In the background Jay Boxwell, State VFW Judge Advocate and Jim D'Arcy past commander of VFW 3335.



Cranford VFW Post #335 perform a gun salute at the Memorial Day ceremony.



(above) The Mooney family's Cub Scouts from Presbyterian Church's Pack 103 honor the memory of Donald Templeton. Templeton served in WW1 as well as WW2 and had worked in England to prepare for the Normandy invasion. He died in a Connecticut hospital from wounds sustained in a jeep accident while abroad. Donald Templeton left behind a wife and daughter in Cranford at 21 Burchfield Avenue, he was 50 years old.

A SOCIALLY DISTANCED MEMORIAL DAY PHOTO ALBUM - CRANFORD 2020



(above) Willie Cymbaluk proudly brought the flags of Steve Rosich and Anton Hascek back to their old neighborhood. Here he makes a toast to the memory of his two friends



(above) On Mohawk Drive a mini parade was organized under the guidelines of social distancing and reduced size of public gatherings. Boy Scouts marched carrying their Veteran Flags followed antique cars to the sound of recorded band music.





(above) The writing team of the Cranford 86 Project takes a break after decorating Memorial Park. The 27 banners placed there on display allowed Cranford residents a close-up view of the faces of the men whose names are engraved on the memorial tablets that stand in the background. The banners can always be seen in their permanent spots on poles throughout Cranford.

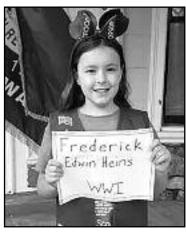


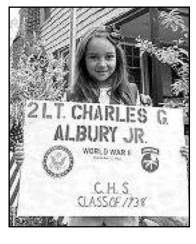






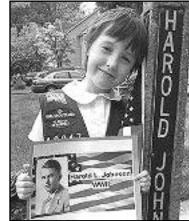






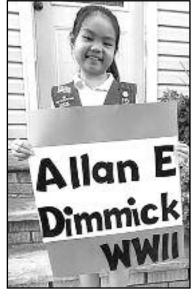








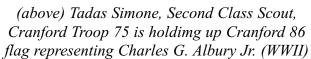














(above) 325 Cranford Girl Scouts from Service Unit 48 remembered our Cranford 86 members at their homes around town. Displaying homemade signs, they recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang God Bless America along with their neighbors.

PAL FALL SPORTS REGISTRATION – TACKLE, FLAG, AND **CHEERLEADING**

Submitted by D/Sgt. Matthew R. Nazzaro

The Cranford PAL traditionally opens annual online Fall Sports Registrations on Memorial Day and extends the enrollment period through Independence Day. As a result of the fluid circumstances and restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the PAL will be delaying its registration open date until more details emerge from our federal, state and local partners. Specifically, the PAL will be following guidance set forth by the State of New Jersey, the Township of Cranford, the Cranford Board of Education, the NJSIAA and of course the New Jersey Suburban Youth Football League (NJSYFL). In the past, seasons would begin in mid-August and extend until late October/early November.

Please rest assured that the Cranford PAL will be closely monitoring any developments and in turn will keep participants informed and up to date as details emerge.

The Cranford PAL encourages all individuals to monitor cranfordpal.org for all program and registration announcements.

LADIES NIGHT OUT CANCELLED

Submitted by Maggie Feeney

Project Home of Cranford has cancelled the 2020 Ladies Night Out due to Covid-19. The members of Project Home would like to thank all of those who purchased tickets for this event and we hope to see you at the 2021 Ladies Night

Due to the pandemic the needs of those whom Project Home support is even greater than before. Ladies Night is Project Home of Cranford's largest fundraiser and not being able to host this event at a time when the need for assisting those in our community has increased is disappointing to all of us.

would like to convert their ticket fee to a donation, a donation acknowledgment will be issued. As a thank you for donating your ticket you will be given three chances for one of the baskets that had been planned to be part of Ladies Night Out. The baskets are listed on the website. Project Home of Cranford projecthomeofcranford.org. Please go to the Project Home Website by June 23 to review the baskets and let us know which baskets you would like your tickets in. The winning baskets will be delivered to the winner's home. If you

would prefer a refund please mail your ticket back to: Project Home of Cranford, PO Box 724, Cranford NJ 07016 by June 25 and a refund will be issued. Refunds cannot be issued for any tickets returned (postmarked) after June 25, 2020. Make sure to include your name and address of where the refund should be sent.

The members of Project Home would like to thank all of those who continue to support our mission to assist Cranford families who are in danger of losing their Cranford residences due to crisis situations, such as job loss or catastrophic illness.

For over 25 years Project Home of Cranford, For those who have purchased tickets and a 501(c)3 charity, has been working through Cranford Family Care to keep Cranford families in their homes. All funds raised by Project Home of Cranford are remitted to Cranford Family Care so that they can insure that qualifying members of the community who are in need of assistance receive it.

> If you would like find out more about Project Home and our mission please email us at projecthomeofcranford@gmail.com,

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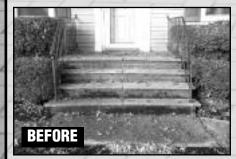


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CRANFORD NATIVE SYDNEY SWEET WINS PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP

New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) undergrads continue to earn the nation's top academic honors, the latest being a new university record of four students named Goldwater Scholars this year by the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. The scholarship is recognized among the country's most prestigious for STEM undergraduates pursuing research careers.

One of these scholars is Cranford native Sydney Sweet.

Sweet is a junior majoring in chemical



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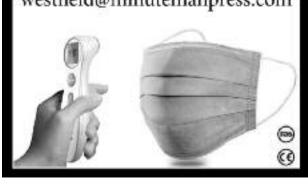
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engineering, whose nanoparticle research is aiming to improve health care for Type 2 diabetes patients. During a first-year NJIT Provost Summer Research Fellowship with her professor Xiaoyang Xu, she began a study of hydrogels for the delivery of heart regenerative therapeutics, and contributed on a review paper on nanotechnology-mediated devices to treat obesity published in the journal Advanced HealthcareBiomaterials.

Since then, she's earned a \$3,000 seed grant for research to improve diabetes drug delivery—work she's presented at the 2019 American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) national conference in Orlando, Fla. "My research is exciting because I am developing a novel oral delivery system using nanoparticles that can offer a safer way to deliver drugs than how they are

typically administered now via subcutaneous injections, therefore improving outcomes and quality of life of diabetes patients," said Sweet, an Albert Dorman Honors College scholar.

Through NJIT programs, she's also landed her current co-op at Infineum, and a study-abroad opportunity in Melbourne, Australia, last year, which she says has shaped her future career plans.

"Living in Melbourne for six months greatly expanded my worldview," said Sweet. "The city's sustainability efforts and wildlife conservation inspired me to pursue nanomaterials research in the future that could improve alternative energy sources to combat climate change. I am grateful for the opportunities that may arise from being a Goldwater Scholar, but my greatest takeaway is the empowerment that it's already sparked in me to pursue my own research path."



(above) Sydney Sweet

Photo by NJIT

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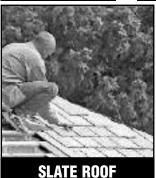
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Faith Lutheran Church, New Providence is currently collecting bicycles in usable and/or repairable condition on behalf of Pedals for Progress (P4P), an organization which annually recycles thousands of bicycles, sending them to countries around the world. Faith Lutheran has been partnering with P4P since 2002 and has collected thousands of bikes in that time.

Anyone wishing to donate an adult or kid-sized bike can drop it off at the far end of the church parking lot near the little brown shed at 524 South Street in New Providence. There is no need to call ahead, just drive up and drop off your

donation in the lot and Faith will make sure it gets to P4P. To arrange for pick up, contact the Church Office at 908-464-5177 or leave a message and someone will get back to you.

In the last 29 years, P4P has collected more than 159,000 bicycles and shipped them to people in need in places including Latin America, South America, Africa, Thailand, and the Balkans. In each of these locations, the bikes are reconditioned by partner agencies and distributed at low cost to poor working adults or wherever there is need. Donated bikes previously used for relaxation and recreation get a second life providing life-sustaining and reliable transportation for people to commute to work or school, to transport produce to market, and to access healthcare and other services.

For more information visit Pedals for Progress' website at p4p.org.



(above) Volunteers remove the pedals and ziptie them to the bike frame, then turn and lock down the handlebars so that the bikes can be tightly packed onto P4P's truck and then onto overseas shipping containers.



(above) P4P staff are bike experts. They are also masters at using space wisely. All these bikes and more will be loaded on the truck shown and will make their way to people around the world.

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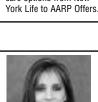
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Submitted by Christopher Sands

Atlas-Pythagoras Lodge #10 Free and Accepted Masons, which meets at 1011 Central Ave, Westfield, recently held our annual Charity Night. We donated to eight worthy groups in our community.

The Masonic Services Association, which supports Veterans in the three NJ State Veterans home and both VA Veterans homes.

Tree of Hope, which the Sheriff of Union County runs, which collects toys for needy children in Union County.

Keystone Community Living, which helps people with developmental disabilities to lead fulfilling lives. It runs a group home in South Plainfield.

Bonds of Courage, which supports Veterans and the 1st Squadron, 102nd Cavalry from the Westfield Armory.

Union County Meals on Wheels, which provides meals to the housebound or those who cannot cook themselves.

Every 15 Minutes, from Kenilworth High School, which teaches Juniors and Seniors about the consequences of drinking and driving.

The Children's Dyslexia Center, Scotch Plains, which uses the Orton-Gillingham curriculum to help children with dyslexia read and flourish.

The George Washington Masonic Memorial, A museum which is used to tell the world about George Washington, a Mason, General of the Armies and our First President!

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Atlas-Pythagoras Lodge #10 meets the first and third Fridays every month except during the

If you are interested in joining us, or would like more information about Freemasony, visit atlaspythagoras.com, or call (908) 233-7349.

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- Harvesting and packing food for the hungry The Rutgers Master Gardener Helpline is opened to the general public and is staffed yearround. April through November hours are, Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Fridays from 1 p.m. to 1 p.m. and can be reached at mastergardeners@ucnj.org or 908-654-9852. To learn more about the program visit njaes.rutgers.edu/master-gardeners/.

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With residents of New Jersey being asked to stay home to fight the spread of Covid-19, many people find themselves feeling isolated and experiencing high levels of anxiety. Caring Contact, a local listening and crisis hotline, continues to help individuals during this difficult time. As a member agency of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, Caring Contact cares for those who are in crisis in central and northern New Jersey and acts as a backup to other Lifeline agencies throughout the country. Additionally, they operate a local "warm" line to assist individuals who may not be in crisis but are experiencing stress themselves, with a family member, friend or co-worker.

phone lines at Caring Contact. "It has been a challenge during this time to ensure that volunteers are kept safe", stated Executive Director Janet Sarkos. "All business operations were moved remotely in early March. We've altered our hotline operations so that only one listener at any a time is in each of our phone

Approximately 90 volunteers answer the

organization to ensure each phone station and other "common touch areas" are cleaned thoroughly between listeners, to further protect against contamination. It is vital that we continue to answer calls during this time of heightened anxiety".

But even with these office precautions, Caring Contact has updated their telephone and IT systems so they can now transition many of their volunteers to answer both the Lifeline and the local warm line from remote locations. Call volume is up. We took 2,986 calls in the first here to listen.

rooms. We are working together as an quarter last year as compared to 4,012 this year. We've been tracking COVID-related calls. In the middle of March 20% of our calls were COVIDrelated. From 3/29 - 4/12, it had risen to 32%.

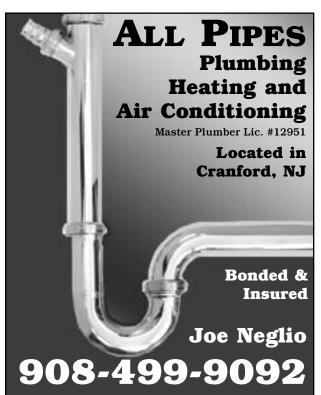
> If you are interested in learning more about Caring Contact please visit their website at caringcontact.org. If you, or someone you know, is in crisis please call 800.273.8255, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. If you are feeling isolated and need to talk to someone please call 908.232.2880, 7 days a week from 7 a.m. - 11 p.m. (based on volunteer availability). We are



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Visit RennaMedia.com for online publications. Photo albums, video and advertising opportunities.

Howdy Partners! Online Marketing is like the Wild West

Too many carpetbaggers are exploiting business owners, making empty promises that don't materialize.

Too many businesses are stuck in contracts with no return on investments, no way to check if the work is getting done, and needing to invest more to make things right.

The following is a guide to Renna Media services and costs that you can compare to your present provider.

I highly recommend doing an independent audit of your website!

Contact Walter Watson at walter@www-online-enterprises.com

He does a great job analysing and making recommendations.

It is only \$250 and can save you time, money and headaches.

Thank you. - Joe Renna

Full Service Online Marketing



Online Marketing Items

Website ads and Social Media Posts, Classified ads\$20 per item
 Special bulk price......Block of 20 items \$100 Including: Press releases / Classified Ads
 Web Page / Calendar Event / Monthly Banner ads

Extra Boost:

- Blast your online ad or press release to a targeted market:\$100
- National Press Release Distribution to 300 to 500 news outlets......Budget choice from \$300 to \$500.

Website / SEO services

- Website Audit/Analysis and recommendation plan:\$250
 Website creation/update:\$2,400
 (Cost for average website: 12 pages, contact form, SEO friendly, responsive design)
- Website Hosting:\$300 per year Includes website hosting, software updates, monthly website content updates
- SEO Services:.....average cost \$1,000 \$2,000 per month Custom tailored solutions: Google Ranking, Local SEO, Social Marketing

Video advertising

Production:

- Product placement \$250
- 30-second commercial \$500
- 3-minute spot \$1,000
- 30-minute show \$1,500
- 3-hour shoot \$2,000

Do not commit to a service unless you have a solid marketing plan and budget.

Your plan should work on paper before you spend dime one. Don't waste money just trying something. There is no magic bullet. **Call Joe for a free consultation.**

Call Joe Renna 908-447-1295 Email: JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com Check out Joe Renna's Hyper Local Network on You Tube. Call 908-447-1295

if you want your business featured on line and in print. See sample show below.



JENNIFER ALARCON -THE INSPIRATION BEHIND MEXICAN SPICE

I was born and raised in Mexico City, and now a happy resident of Chatham NJ for the last 13 years, I have searched for what I would call authentic and delicious Mexican food. Disappointed with my local findings, I decided to start my own little catering business to my friends and neighbors.

Business took off amazingly! In a matter of 3 years I went from making Salsa Verde in my own kitchen, to setting up a commercial kitchen, growing the team (or better said, building a team), participating in local Farmers Markets and catering countless events and parties.

We are now at two brick-and-mortar locations, and have exciting plans for continuing to grow.

Oh and did I mention the super-chic-amazing-fun-classy-fabulous Food Truck? Mexican Spice has a Food Truck which is the cutest little thing and we take it around New Jersey to cater special events like birthdays, weddings, and of course, to the local Food Truck Festivals.

I am passionate about the Mexican culture, the infinite flavors, colors and traditions, and I love that I am able to share "A little taste of Mexico" with the community.

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