

CRANFORD MONTHLY_{NJ}

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GIRLS SCOUTS HONOR VETERANS WITH VIDEO PROJECT

Submitted by Kerry Rokicki

A special video project was shared this Memorial Day to honor those Cranford residents who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. The project was a collaboration between the Girl Scouts of Cranford, Cranford VFW Post 335, the Cranford86 Project, the Cranford Recreation and Parks Department and TV35, Cranford’s local public access channel.

There are 14 streets in the township named for fallen veterans. For instance, Day Place is named for Buell Van Keuren Day (WWI) and Hale Street for William Asa Hale (WWI). A Cranford Girl Scout troop was assigned to each street. At each location a troop read a short biography of the hometown hero. These videos were then compiled into a montage that was broadcast on Channel 35 on Memorial Day.

“The aim was to honor our hometown veterans, but to also teach our Girl Scouts about the true meaning behind Memorial Day,” explained Elayna Torsone, manager of Girl Scouts of Cranford Service Unit 48. “Special thanks are due to the individual troops for creating their videos and to leader Nicole Savino Mulcahy for turning that footage into the final product. I am also very grateful for the collaboration among all the Cranford organizations that helped make this project a success.”

The Cranford86 Project, which aims to illuminate the personal stories and experiences of the 86 Cranford residents who perished in military service, provided the profiles.

In addition to the video project, the Girl Scouts of Cranford honored township veterans with other initiatives. Girl Scouts participated in the wreath laying ceremony at Memorial Park on Monday and stood at attention with the Girl Scout flag while the abbreviated parade passed by. All township Girl Scouts were invited to recite the pledge of allegiance on the lawns of their homes at 10:00 a.m. on Memorial Day. Some Girl Scout families also brought one of the Gold Star flags honoring a member of the Cranford 86 back to their homes and neighborhoods as part of a town-wide effort to



(above) Brownie Troop 40376 stands at the corner of Heinrich Street which honors Sergeant Karl H. Heinrich, one of the 86 Cranford residents who gave his life during military service. The troop was part of a video project that honored these veterans on Memorial Day.



(above) Girl Scouts of Cranford stand at attention as the Memorial Day Parade passes on North Union Avenue in downtown Cranford.

honor these veterans on Memorial Day.

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 cranfordgirlscouts.com.



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JAYCEES FIRECRACKER FOUR-MILER AND FUN RUN RETURNS IN-PERSON FOR ITS 42ND YEAR

The Cranford Jaycees’ annual Firecracker Four Miler and Fun Run will once again be held in person this July 4th at Nomahegan Park after going virtual last year.

“We’re excited to have the Firecracker back as part of Cranford’s Fourth of July tradition,” said David Farrell of the Cranford Jaycees, who co-chairs the event with Roger Imhof. “We’re seeing a really positive response from the community so far.”

The course takes place on a flat, USATF-certified scenic course on tree-lined streets and bike trails. Mile splits, water stops, and chip timing are provided. Technical race shirts and souvenir race pint glasses are included with registration.

The logo for this year’s race was designed by Cranford High School senior Delaney Bertrand under the tutelage of CHS teacher Patrick Gorman.

Proceeds from the race benefit the Cranford Jaycees scholarship program. The Jaycees recently awarded a total of \$30,000 in scholarships to twenty graduating high school seniors in Cranford. Brighton Air Corp. returns as the race’s title sponsor for the third consecutive year.

Registration is now live at www.raceforum.com/fire-4 and will be available up until race day. The virtual participation option is available again this year for participants who will be away for the holiday.



(above, l-r) Event co-chair Roger Imhof, event title sponsor Daniel Ghanime of Brighton Air Corp., logo designer Delaney Bertrand of Cranford High School, event co-chair Dave Farrell, and CHS art teacher Patrick Gorman.

Photo by Cranford Jaycees



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RAKE & HOE DECORATES TRAYS FOR MOBILE MEALS

Submitted by Betty Round

Members of the Rake and Hoe Garden Club recently met at the First Baptist Church of Westfield where Mobile Meals originates and made 55 small floral arrangements to accompany the Mobile Meals delivered that day.

These colorful small arrangements are much appreciated by the clients who look forward to receiving them. One recipient told the club that she placed the arrangement on her kitchen windowsill and when she saw the arrangement every day it brought her happiness and made her realize that she was not alone and that others think of her and care. The club has performed this service twice a year in the Spring and the Fall for almost 50 years.

Mobile Meals is a voluntary, non-profit program that provides home-delivered meals to

those who are unable to shop and prepare their own meals on either a temporary or permanent basis. It is available to residents of Westfield and surrounding communities including Mountainside, Fanwood, Scotch Plains, Clark, and Cranford. For more information, call 908-233-6146.

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club is affiliated with the Garden Club of New Jersey and the

National Garden Clubs, Inc. Currently, the club meets online on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 p.m. Meetings feature speakers on horticultural, flower design, floral crafts, and environmental topics. Membership is open to residents of Westfield and surrounding towns. For more information, call Beth Siano 908-233 4150 or visit the club's website, rakeandhoe.org, or Facebook page.



(above, l-r) Pictured are Mary Smith, Kris Luka, Kathryn Ciurczak, Margot Partridge, Gayle Lechner, Donna Hopkins, Mary Fran Annese, Jeanie Pelikan and Betty Gulino.

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BUS TRIP TO ATLANTIC CITY'S TROPICANA CASINO AND RESORT

The Kenilworth Historical Society will host a bus trip to the Tropicana Casino and Resort in Atlantic City on Saturday, July 31.

The trip will depart Kenilworth (St. Theresa's School parking lot) at 8 a.m. and return to Kenilworth at approximately 6:30 p.m. Cost of \$48 includes comfortable motor coach transportation, an approximate 6-hour visit to the casino and \$10 in free slot play. The Tropicana premier casino and resort is a 24-hour gaming destination located on the acclaimed Atlantic City beach and boardwalk. With more than 3,000 slot machines and more than 132 table games, plus 30 popular restaurants and eateries, 30 shops, 20 bars and lounges, four pools, an IMAX Theatre and multiple spas, Tropicana is consistently rated as a "Must-See Attraction" in Atlantic City. There will be a 50/50 raffle and complimentary door prizes on the bus.

For further information and reservations, please call 908-709-0434. As space is limited, particularly for safe "social distancing" on the bus, reservations should be made by July 17 to ensure availability. Gift certificates for the trip are also available for purchase.

Proceeds from the bus trip will benefit the Kenilworth Historical Society's historic Oswald J. Nitschke House (c. 1880) by helping defray operating expenses, including the cost of an elevator that makes the restored "living history" museum and cultural arts center fully accessible to everyone.

The Kenilworth Historical Society is an independent, volunteer-based, non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the research, preservation and interpretation of the Oswald J. Nitschke House, local history and culture. Further information about the organization, the Nitschke House and other upcoming events may be found on the website (kenilworthhistoricalsociety.org) and Facebook page.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Submitted by Christopher D Sands

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is a fraternal organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of those who fought and worked to save the Union. Hereditary membership is available to a male descendant, 14 years of age, who directly descends from a Soldier, Sailor, Marine or member of the Revenue Cutter Service between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865.

The General Phil Kearny Camp #20 meets four times a year at the Abraham Clark House in Roselle, NJ. The next scheduled Camp meetings are September 11, and November 13, 2021, all Saturdays at 1 p.m. We support over 20 high schools and 2 universities with the SUVCW ROTC Medal. Our current program is to place signs where Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) posts met in North Jersey.

For more information visit suvchw.org.



(above) Colonel Stephen Harlan is inducted into the General Phil Kearny Camp 320 membership. Chaplain James O'Halloran, Secretary Clark McCullough, and Commander Peter Lindsey conduct the induction.

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SAMUEL SULLIVAN RECEIVES GOOD CITIZEN AWARD

Submitted by Mary Leonard

The New Jersey Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NJDAR) recently announced their Good Citizen Award and Scholarship would be presented to Samuel Sullivan, 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 "How do the combined actions of so many good citizens keep our nation moving forward?"

The Crane's Ford chapter congratulates Samuel Sullivan 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 87 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 contact DAR.org to get more information.

GOLF TEAM FINISHES IMPRESSIVE SEASON

Submitted by William Ray

The Cranford High School golf team recently completed another very successful season by compiling a 14 wins against 1 loss record. The team also took home the Union County Conference (UCC) title as well as the Mayor's Cup and finished second in the Union County Interscholastic Athletics Conference (UCIAC) Tournament and Third in the North Jersey Group 3 Sectionals.

Sophomore Derek Gutierrez led the team with a 71 tournament average including winning the UCC individual championship with a 69 at Galloping Hill Golf Course. He also shot 72 in both the UCIAC at Echo Lake Country Club and the State Sectionals at Preakness Valley Golf Course to finish fourth and third respectively. In the State finals at Hawk Pointe Golf Club, Derek carded a 71 to place third in Group 3.

Junior Elliot Parker also had a strong season with a 76 tournament average including a second place 70 (Gutierrez 69) in the UCC and a 76 for sixth place in the UCIAC. He also posted a 72 at The York, Pa. Country Club in a US Open Qualifier to miss moving on to the second round by 1 stroke.

Brandon Quach, a freshman, was a pleasant addition to the team as he posted a solid 83 tournament average which included a 79 in the UCC. Along with Derek and Elliot, Brandon received All Union County Conference honors.

Sophomore Nick Ret carded an 89 in the UCC by rallying for a 38 on the back nine to help secure the team championship at Galloping Hill. He also shot an 87 in the UCIAC.

Freshman Danny Kennedy posted an 87 in the UCIAC to aid the Cougars second place finish as well as a 90 in the State Sectionals.

Letter winners also included seniors Tim O'Donovan, Josh Nudelman, Troy Isaksen and Leo Tallon; juniors Brian Readie, Kevin Ruple Jackson Larrabee and sophomore Quinn Isaksen.



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Members of the Cranford Police Department took part in this year's Special Olympics Torch Run held on June 11, 2021 by carrying the

"Flame of Hope" through Cranford. It is a statewide, daylong marathon along 26 separate routes, involving 3,000 New Jersey law

enforcement officers each carrying the torch thru their perspective towns. Olympian Tommy Wisniewski joined them.



(above) Det. Temple, Ptl. Donnerstag, Capt. Patterson, Ptl. Muhammad, Olympian Tommy Wisniewski, Ptl. Galvez, Det. Dubitsky, Det. Jordan, Det. Gerrity and Sgt. Luedecker.

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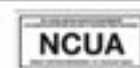
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2021 CRANFORD KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Submitted by John J. Doolan

On Wednesday, June 9th, at St. Michael's Church, the Cranford Knights of Columbus presented Scholarships to 20 worthy high school students. William Kennedy received the Monsignor Louis Fimiani Memorial Award, John Scheurer received the Christine Bagniewski Memorial Award and Robert McNamara received the Irene Shackell Memorial Award. The other Scholarship winners are Sinead Comiskey, Rachel Durant, Deidre Tighe, Devin Haughey, Michael Scheurer, Genevieve Marchesi, Erin Miklencic, Isabella Zissler, Margaret Garcia, Patrick O'Shea, Casey Benederoth, Lindsay Geschickter, Jack Cartnick, Amanda Beckley, Kayleigh Pierce, Danielle Messina and Molly O'Shea.

The Council would like to thank the Scholarship Committee chaired by Brother Ed Bagniewski for a job well done as we had a record number of applicants this year.

Since our founding in 1970, the Cranford Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Men's Fraternal Organization dedicated to our four core principles, Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. The Cranford Council supports many worthy 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 Cranford Council, please contact our Grand Knight Jerry Conheeney at 908-416-3464 or visit our web site, cranfordknights.org.



(above) The Cranford Knights of Columbus distributed over \$13,000 in Scholarship monies and pictured are all of the recipients along with Chaplain Monsignor Tim Shugrue and the Scholarship Committee. Not pictured: Kayleigh Pierce.



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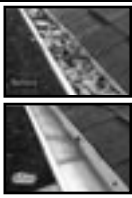
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VFW & AUXILLIARY INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

Cranford VFW Post #335 held its annual Installation of Officers on Tuesday, June 1st at the Veterans Memorial Home in town. Cranford's outgoing Commander of three years, Colonel Andrew Burns passed the Commander's Gavel to Incoming Commander William Hinkle.

After the installation, out-going Commander Burns reflected on his three years as leader of the 250-man organization. "Being in charge of an active Post like Cranford, was a very demanding experience. The challenges, especially during the pandemic have been difficult to overcome, but

we have quite a team of members here to help pull the load. Also, our Auxiliary Unit which was led by Diane McCracken was invaluable in their assistance. I thank everyone for all they've done to make my years so successful.

Other officers installed at the Post for the 2021-2022 year were, Senior Vice Commander Mark Schwartz, who was this year's Memorial Day Parade Grand Marshall, Junior Vice Commander Michael LaCombe and returning Chaplain James Silkensen. Venerable Joe Del Grippo remains as Quartermaster, while Dennis King returns as Post Adjutant. The Post Trustees are Michael Gregory, Jay Boxwell and John Morrison.

The Post Auxiliary had held its installation of officers in May, with the incoming slate to be, President Sharon Waked, Senior Vice President Diane McCracken, Junior Vice President Kim

Waken, Treasurer Noreen Cannone, Secretary Anne Vaccaro and Chaplain Kristine King.

Due to the Covid-Pandemic Cranford VFW Post was unable to hold its 100th Anniversary Celebration which was to be in April 2020. "Everything is still on hold" outgoing Commander Drew Burns stated, but someday when the time is right, we will certainly have that big party."

The Cranford Post was founded in February 1920, consisting of the town's many returning World War I veterans. One of the first acts the newly formed VFW did was to honor all locally living Civil War Veterans by making them "Honorary" members of the organization. Also in the following year, the VFW Post was instrumental in founding the Cranford Memorial Day Parade which celebrated its 100th anniversary at this year's event.

ROSEANN WALKER NEW DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Cranford Public Schools

The Cranford Board of Education is pleased to announce Roseann Walker as the new Director of Human Resources. She brings with her a wealth of experience and expertise.

Roseann Walker began her career as a 2nd grade elementary teacher in North Plainfield Public Schools. During her 12 years there, she was also the technology teacher for the elementary and intermediate schools. In 2012, Mrs. Walker was named the NJ SMART data analysis and assessment coordinator. She subsequently accepted a new position as the technology coach in Keansburg Public Schools where she initiated a new district website, oversaw student enrollment and supported technology programs in the district.

Continuing her climb and gaining additional valuable experience, Mrs. Walker was appointed as the grants, assessments, and special programs coordinator at Edison Public Schools in 2016. In this role, her responsibilities included writing the ESSA Grant and providing oversight to the disbursement of funds where needed. At the same time, she assumed the role of district anti-bullying coordinator and district testing coordinator for all 19 schools. With a new administration she was promoted as the supervisor of health and wellness, a new position, where she successfully transitioned medical benefits to a department that prioritized the well-being for all 3,000 district employees. For a period of time during her tenure in Edison, she also served as the supervisor of transportation and interim director of human resources.

Mrs. Walker earned her Bachelor of Elementary Education and her Masters in Administration and Supervision from Kean University. She also obtained a second Masters in Early Childhood Education from the University of Phoenix.

Mrs. Walker lives in Bradley Beach with her husband Ken, and five sons. She also finds time to serve on the Bradley Beach Board of Education. Mrs. Walker is excited and honored to be joining the Cranford team in July. She is looking forward to contributing to the continued success of Cranford Public Schools.

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100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CRANFORD MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Submitted by Donald Sweeney

The Cranford 86 project, a team of four researchers and writers, is committed to the memory of the men whose names are engraved on the monuments in Cranford's Memorial Park. As you can imagine, for us, the days leading up to Memorial Day morning are always filled with preparation, to-do lists and deadlines. However, this year with state-mandated Covid restrictions still firmly in place, we wondered, would our yearly parade once again be cancelled, leaving the accompanying ceremony again to be abbreviated and available only by televised broadcast on TV-35?

The meetings of the Memorial Day Committee, of which I am a member, normally were lively and full of action items, now had trickled down to just emails with "Reply All" responses. Suddenly, in the first week of May, we received word from our mayor, Kathleen Prunty, that since Governor Murphy had revised the regulations on outdoor gatherings, the parade/ceremony was a go! Under the direction of Cranford Recreation & Parks Director, Steve Robertazzi, the committee would feverishly attempt to create a parade in 3 weeks, something which normally would take months.

The guidelines that were handed down from town hall were clear. A small parade and abbreviated ceremony were the plan, no stage, no program, no chairs, no middle school bands, no Boy and Girl Scouts, no sports teams.

I was thankful and happy that our Cranford 86 project would again have the opportunity to tell the stories of the six Hometown Heroes that we had profiled throughout the year. In the ceremony that has changed little in the 100 years since it was started by VFW Post #335 and the Cranford American Legion, I would be able to present the stories in a 10-minute slot at ceremony's end.

We hurried to put together the Cranford 86 tribute books that we have made available on Memorial Day morning for the past three years. With no paper programs planned for the ceremony this year, we thought that the cover of our book would be a good place to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Cranford's Memorial Day Parade. In record time, Weaver Printing of Cranford and their graphic artist Liddy Guillen, created an artistic masterpiece. Using the faces of the 36 Cranford Hometown Heroes that have been unveiled to date, the images were carefully placed inside the number 100 to create a beautiful design. It came out so perfectly that I felt it should have much more exposure. I thought that it would make a great T-shirt, so yes, we made one! With the "100" design on the front, we added the words "I didn't know them...but I know I owe them". On the back is the logo of our Cranford 86 project and the words "Live a life worthy of their sacrifice". As our project continues through the list of 86, profiling our heroes, the spiral bound tribute books are growing. This year's version would be 150 pages with a printing cost of \$40 each. We also created a smaller book, at 50 pages and \$20 to print, containing only the stories written since our last parade. How many to print, would be the big



(above, l-r) Led by the Cranford VFW color guard, the Cranford Memorial Day Parade marked it's 100th anniversary in 2021. Brauleo Lorenzo, Jay Boxwell, Jim Silkensen, Andrew Burns and Jim Darcy.



(above) Riding aboard the VFW's 100th anniversary float are Grand Marshall Mark Schwartz and his wife Sharon. Cranford VFW Post #335 celebrated its 100 year anniversary in 2020. Post #335 along with the Cranford American Legion, which has since closed, were both instrumental in the establishment of Cranford's Memorial Day Parade.



John Elliott, of CBS Sunday Morning news, expresses genuine interest in the Cranford 86 project as he interviews Don Sweeney and Mayor Kathleen Prunty about the 100th Anniversary of Cranford's Memorial Day.

question and the investment to do it was just as big. Would the sun shine or would it rain as it has done a couple of times on Memorial Day over the past 5 years? It would be my decision to make.

On Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, the preparations to introduce our 2021 heroes were in full swing. It took most of the day to build, paint and assemble 8 new additional pipe hangers to hold the vertical banners. These banners, which proudly display the names and faces of currently just a portion of Cranford's 86, would be placed by our team, along the paths at Memorial Park on Monday morning. Saturday night was dedicated to the fine-tuning of my speech. With the help of Janet Ashnault, Cranford 86 co-writer and proofreader, we shortened my thoughts into the allotted 10-minutes required by the abbreviated program format.

The next morning, I woke up early and planted myself in my easy chair, with my speech and coffee in hand. I switched on the CBS morning news as I do every Sunday morning and to my surprise I saw John Elliott, my favorite TV weatherman, standing under a gazebo out of the rain, in front of where? . . . the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford! I heard him say something like, "We are here in Cranford NJ where a

milestone of their town's Memorial Day Parade will take place tomorrow", which caused me to jump from my chair almost spilling my coffee. I yelled out for my wife Joanne to help me to get some things together to bring downtown. With a T-shirt and Cranford 86 tribute book in hand, I rushed out the door before realizing that I still had my pajama pants on! After a quick change, I was on my way again. Driving down Centennial Avenue, I was trying to figure out how this happened, and I surmised that it had to be Mayor Prunty. I had shared with Kathleen all of my research on the origin of Cranford's parade, and she had the brilliant idea to contact CBS news about doing a remote broadcast in Cranford.

Coincidentally, Sunday, May 30th was World MS Day. The aim of this day is to raise awareness of multiple sclerosis, a disease with which Mayor Prunty's son is afflicted. This was made into an additional talking point in the CBS news segment.

I pulled into the firehouse parking lot to see a CBS satellite truck and John Elliott, Kathleen Prunty, Tom and Cindy Hannon and a couple of onlookers. My plan was to just give Kathleen a book and a shirt so that she could enhance what

(continues on page 14)

CRANFORD MEMORIAL DAY PARADE (continued from page 13)

was being said about Cranford's 100th parade anniversary. I entered the gazebo in between segments with a shirt and tribute book in hand. Kathleen introduced me to John indicating that I was the founder of the Cranford 86 project. John seemed genuinely interested and began asking me several questions about what we do. Then, to my astonishment, he said "Would you mind going on camera with us and explain your project?" Now mind you, I had not yet showered or shaved, my hair was standing on end, and I felt that my eyes were not even fully opened, but I answered, "Sure!". I quickly reached out of the gazebo and wet my hands with rainwater in an attempt to slick down my hair. Before I knew it, John said, "OK Don, stand right here next to Mayor Prunty", and BAM, we were on the air!

The mayor was interviewed first and then John asked me a little about our book and project. It all lasted only about a minute, but it was so cool! I was wondering how many people had just seen that and I soon found out it was a lot! One of our goals in writing these stories about Cranford's fallen is to inform and encourage people to read their stories, know their faces and ensure that they are not forgotten. I couldn't help but think that we had just taken a giant step to help us towards that goal.

After three solid days of heavy rain, Memorial Day morning thankfully arrived with the sun gleaming and the ground drying out quickly. It looked like a beautiful day for a parade. The Cranford 86 team and our helpers met early at Memorial Park to hang the banners. This year, 13

new images joined the 30 existing banners and all will fly above Cranford for many years to come. Walking the paths in Memorial Park and seeing the banners blowing gently in the breeze is an emotional moment for me each year. Writing their stories and knowing them by heart has made me feel very close to each of these brave men. Just like old-timer, WWII veteran Bob Greco, whose words inspired the Cranford 86 project, I can really say that when I hear their names each year, I do see their faces.

With our prep work completed, I was soon approached by a polite, well-spoken man who introduced himself as David Priddy. David is the grandson of one of our Cranford 86 2021 honorees, Benjamin Priddy. After exchanging pleasantries, David directed me across the park to his family who was gathered around a well-dressed man whose mobility was assisted by a walker. It was 87-year-old Larry Priddy, son of Benjamin Priddy. When I approached him it was clear to see that he had inherited his father's striking blue eyes that I was easily able to recognize from a WWI-era oil portrait of Benjamin Priddy. We chatted for a while and the family graciously expressed their thanks for all the work that we had done to uncover the story of their patriarch, Benjamin Priddy. Larry's daughter Jeanne Viscito, the former mayor of Berkeley Heights, said she learned more in the 10 minutes reading our story than she had ever known about her grandfather in her entire life. Larry's son David, a Naval Academy graduate and Navy helicopter pilot had flown in from

Minnesota on Sunday to join his father, sister Jeanne and sister Susan and her husband and children to observe Memorial Day in Cranford. They told us that Larry Priddy, after losing his dad when he was 10 years old, became an Eagle Scout with Troop 80 from the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford. The story of Benjamin Priddy is an extraordinary one and should be read by all. See Cranford86.org.

We seated the Priddys with the twenty-five other Gold Star Family members in the VIP section of the park as the short parade came to an end and the ceremony began. Former mayor and longtime, Memorial Day mistress of ceremonies, Barbara Bilger, was back at the podium guiding everyone through the smoothly planned hour-long event. Although shortened, it was no less solemn and well done by all involved. Mayor Prunty's speech, which referred to the men behind the names, was patriotic and heartfelt. Grand Marshal Mark Schwartz gave one of the best orations that I can remember in all my years of attendance at the ceremony. He compared what Americans had gone through this year to be somewhat like what soldiers experienced in war, donning uncomfortable equipment to protect ourselves from a hidden attacker. Mark stressed that there was still work to be done for veterans returning from foreign wars, citing that the 22 veterans a day that take their own lives, is a continuing American tragedy. My chance to tell a brief story about each of the six men featured by Cranford 86 this year came at the very end. I

(continues on page 15)



(above) Tribute books and T-shirts are still available and can be obtained by calling 908-272-0876 or emailing info@cranford86.org. See the video clip from CBS Sunday morning news on our Facebook page at Cranford86.org. Go to Cranford86.org for more information on the history of our 100-year-old parade along with all of the stories of our Hometown Heroes written to date.



(above, left) On June 12, the Cranford 86 project welcomed the Army buddy of one of our first Cranford 86 heroes. Harold Hovater, from Muscle Shoals, Alabama, was featured prominently in the Ray Ashnault story (see Cranford86.org). Ray and Harold each received a Bronze Star with a V for Valor while serving in Vietnam. In early June of 1969, 52 years ago almost to the date, both men exhibited bravery in battle while manning their twin M-60, Rambo style, machine guns in a two-day firefight. This was Harold's first time travelling anywhere north of Virginia. With Ray Ashnault's brother John, John's wife, Janet Ashnault, and my wife Joanne and I, Harold walked the trail of the Cranford 86 banners through downtown Cranford ending at the banner of his buddy, Ray. It was an emotional moment for all of us. Ray's banner hangs above the outdoor dining tables of Tomasello's Winery Tasting Room at 109 Walnut Ave. and the manager and servers came out to greet us. Tomasello's staff was glad to hear the story of Ray and Harold, as many times patrons ask about Ray upon seeing his banner displayed above. (John-L, Harold-R).

(above, right) The Priddy family posing for a photo in front of the banner of their family patriarch. Larry Priddy (right) was 10 years old when his father was serving his second tour of duty, which was in the Army Air Force, at the age of 47.



CRANFORD MEMORIAL DAY PARADE (continued from page 14)

began with the five men that had fallen victim in 1918 to the Spanish Flu, or H1N1 virus while in service to our country during WWI. It was timely information, considering what our country had just gone through in 2020. They were similar times in so many ways. Next was the story of 1st LT Richard Borrell, a bombardier during the D-

Day attack at Normandy. The story of his contribution to allied victory should be read by every Cranford resident, also at Cranford86.org. I saved half of my allotted time to speak of Major Benjamin Priddy. The story of the incident that took his life is so incredible that it has been made into a documentary, which will possibly be


premiered at the Cranford Theater later this year. Follow Cranford 86 on Facebook for information regarding the film Rohna Classified. The sinking of the HMT Rohna was kept a secret for over 50 years, and it was effectively almost removed from American history, even though it was the largest loss of life, from an enemy action, in the history of our country.

At ceremony's end, I reflected how this time-honored Cranford tradition began 100 years ago, when our town honored the original "Cranford 15" after WWI. Despite still being amidst the remnants of a pandemic, it seemed that in 2021, Cranford had once again managed to honor its fallen with a level of respect worthy of their sacrifice. After the conclusion of the ceremony, quite a crowd surrounded our Cranford 86 tribute table. In short order, practically all of the shirts and books were distributed for donations, requiring additional orders to meet the demand. It would seem that our one-minute segment on CBS news had helped our cause.



(above) These 8 banners were unveiled this year at Memorial Park. Each banner has been sponsored by a community member and we look forward to telling their stories in the near future.

CRANFORD 86
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(above) These banners were dedicated this year and their stories were presented on TV-35 and live at the Memorial Day ceremony. Unfortunately, a picture of Robert McGregor, a victim of the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic, has not yet been found. Cranford 86 is pursuing alternative research services to locate this hero's photo. Note that we thought that Benjamin Priddy was deserving of two banners, since he served in two branches of the military, in two wars and in two different decades.

CRANFORD FLAG, SUB-OLGY, AND VFW TEAM UP FOR VETS

Submitted by Jim D’Arcy

As we finally peak our heads out of the 15-month long fog that is the Covid Pandemic, perhaps we forget the damage that it wrought, especially at nursing homes. The Veterans Home at Menlo Park was a prime example. Run by the New Jersey Department of Military Affairs, over 100 Veterans, representing more than one third of the population of approximately 300 veterans there, died from Covid. That is a figure that is and was devastating, especially to those that endured the catastrophe there.

So, to try to bring a sense of normalcy to those Veterans who survived and still reside at the Menlo Park nursing facility and also in recognition of Memorial Day, on Saturday, May 29, the FLAG Organization (Front Line Appreciation Group) of Cranford, with significant charitable help from the Cranford sandwich shop, Sub-Ology, prepared 100 sandwiches for the veteran residents at the Menlo Park center. Current State VFW Junior Vice Commander Jay Boxwell and Past Cranford VFW Post Commander Jim D’Arcy proudly delivered the 100 “subs” to the campus in Menlo

Park, right before lunch, just in time for a great meal to be had by the many veterans there.

The Facility Director of Recreation at Menlo Park, Christine Caratozzolo, remarked how wonderful and timely the donation was. “These guys in our dorms love when an organization like FLAG remembers them as Veterans and does something to recognize what they have done for our country. It is so important in their everyday life and Memorial Day even makes it even more special to them.”

FLAG leader and head of Cranford’s Downtown Management Committee Caren Anne Demyen stated, “We were honored to partner with the Cranford VFW Post to deliver the lunches. We worked with Paolo Fontana and his team at Sub-Ology to make individual lunches consisting of a sandwich, chips and a soft drink. The Sub-Ology team was very proud to be part of today’s delivery and each individual’s bag contained a hand-written note from our amazing Cranford Girl Scouts in honor of what these veterans have done for us.” Demyen gave further thanks to the Cranford VFW saying, “The delivery today couldn’t have happened without

the support of the Cranford VFW Post #335 and their member’s dedication to advocate on behalf of all our local veterans.”

Jay Boxwell, also a former Commander of Cranford’s VFW Post #335, remarked afterwards, “It is so important to us at the VFW to team with community groups to build that bridge that joins us together in the betterment of our hometown. We commend FLAG and Sub-Ology for a job well done, and we were honored to be part of it.”

The organization “Front Line Appreciation Group” (FLAG) in Cranford was started in March of 2020 right at the start of the pandemic and was originally established as a means to support frontline workers and also the local restaurants that struggled so in the early days of the pandemic. The outpouring the group received in those early days of the epidemic enabled the group to become a charitable organization that will continue to service the needs of the greater Cranford community. Sub-Ology, owned by Paolo Fontana, has made their slogan “what’s for lunch”, and is located at 17 North Avenue in Cranford.



(above) The Sub-Ology team pictured with Jay Boxwell, and Cranford VFW Past Post Command Jim D'Arcy

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ANNUAL RELAY FOR LIFE OF CRANFORD RAISES OVER \$74,000

Submitted by Linda Miklencic

Relay For Life of Cranford's 14th annual event took place on May 22 at Cranford High School.

The event raised over \$74,000 to help the American Cancer Society save lives through groundbreaking cancer research, education and risk reduction efforts, and free information and critical services for people with cancer who need them.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the planning committee had to get creative this year. They wanted to highlight the survivors and luminaria ceremony since they are the two most important parts of our event. The committee hosted a survivor luncheon at CHS which was attended by 30 local survivors. The food was generously donated by Flag of Cranford, Delice Macarons, Barbara Zeckman Realty, and Lisa Papa, and the beautiful flowers were donated by Dreyer's Farm.

In the evening, the luminaria bags, decorated in memory or honor of loved ones, were displayed at the high school and participants were able to drive around the school and spend a quiet moment.

"Although the event was different this year, the committee hopes that by focusing on the survivor luncheon and the luminaria pathway, we were able to have an impact worthy of the Cranford Relay," said long-time committee member Paul Skelton.

The following three teams are recognized for their extraordinary fundraising efforts: Team Angela raised \$19,176, Union County Daughters of Ireland raised \$11,400, and Bosom Buddies raised \$9,631.

Thank you to our Signature Level sponsors: Social Edge Consulting, Horizon BC/BS, and the Cranford Jaycees. Thank you to our generous local businesses for gift card donations: Vinny's Pizza, Hickory & Hill, Track 5, The Mane Event, Rustic Mill Diner, Urban Burger, Chez Gelato, Ambeli, Fettle + Fare, Breadsmith, CDC, Think D'sign, Cake Artist Café, Marino's Restaurant, Weaver Printing, Downtown Cranford, and Cougar Headquarters. Many other businesses posted signs and hosted fundraisers over the past six months.

"Relay For Life is an amazing event that honors those lost to cancer and uplifts and supports those who are currently facing the battle. I am honored to have been a part of this event for the last 7 years. This year's luminaria drive-thru was beautiful and heartfelt. Our schools and community once again have come together to

support one another," said committee member Christine Newport.

The committee would like to thank the Superintendent of Cranford Schools, Dr. Scott Rubin and the Board of Education, TV35, the Township Committee, Downtown Cranford, and the Cranford Police and Fire departments for their continued support.

"Relay for Life is a wonderful event and I've enjoyed being a part of it for the past 10 years. I've met so many wonderful people, people who are hurting and people who want to help," said Linda Miklencic, Event Lead.

The Relay For Life movement unites more than 4 million participants across the globe to celebrate people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and take action to finish the fight once and for all. The Cranford Relay For Life event is a community gathering where teams and individuals camp out at Orange Avenue School or Hillside Avenue School and

take turns walking or running around a track for twelve hours. Teams raise funds in the months leading up to the event. Cancer survivors are the celebrities of the event and walk the first lap to officially start the Relay.

Our ACS fundraising will continue with our Upcoming Tricky Tray Event. Details to follow.

Donations can still be made by visiting relayforlife.org/cranfordnj. Follow our Facebook group: Relay for Life of Cranford.

ABOUT THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

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



(above) Relay For Life of Cranford's 14th annual event took place on May 22 at Cranford High School. The event raised over \$74,000.

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CLARK TOWNSHIP MOURNS CRANFORD RESIDENT JOHN LAEZZA



May 24, 2021

It is with a heavy heart that I announce the passing of Clark's Business Administrator John Laezza, my friend and right hand for 21 years. John joined me at the start of my tenure as mayor to get the township on track financially and remained at his post until his death. He will be sorely missed.

Laezza was known amongst township employees to be fiscally conservative with town resources and to run a tight ship. His focus was on always protecting the growth and financial stability of the township.

Laezza served under two governors and wrote a multitude of state statutes before retiring to the next phase of his career in a corporate capacity. Clark Township was the last stop in his professional journey. We were fortunate to have had him as a leader and mentor to so many.

We thank the community in advance for your well wishes and look forward to carrying on in all the ways he guided us.

Regards,

Mayor Sal Bonaccorso

Do you Suffer from any of these Symptoms?

There are a number of reasons why you developed Osteoarthritis pain. It can develop with age or because of heredity. It could be from repetitive stress from a job or some glory days in athletics. Of course your concern is with the symptoms you face daily and how to make them end, hopefully without surgery or the use of potentially addictive medications. **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** understands the symptoms you have been living with and can help. If you have any of the symptoms below, please call us today. Relief is a phone call away.

- **Pain** - Whether it's a sharp aching or maybe a burning sensation, the pain can range from irritating to debilitating.
- **Swelling** - This can cause tenderness and soreness to the entire knee area, making walking or going up and down stairs painful, getting in and out of bed or bathtubs difficult and dangerous just name a few activities affected by swelling.
- **Stiffness** - Getting up out of bed or after sitting for a period of time gets more and more difficult. This loss of mobility can be more than a hindrance. It can be dangerous if you need to move quickly.
- **Loss of muscle strength** - This can lead to balance issues and the strong possibility of falling.
- **Joint deformity** - Not just unsightly, but painful as well.
- **Creaking Joints** - Can be painful and a sign of more discomfort to come.
- **Sleepless nights** - Losing sleep over your suffering is not just irritating, but potentially dangerous because of so many other health concerns that can be affected by loss of sound sleep.

Let Me Show You Targeted Relief From Your Knee Pain

Every day, I see patients suffering from knee pain due to arthritis, osteoarthritis, sports injuries or other conditions. Many have been told that they are in need of knee replacement surgery. Other patients say they have been prescribed various prescription medications to deal with the pain.

Something else I see almost every day, are patients that have tried viscosupplementation knee injections elsewhere and found it to be a painful and ineffective experience because the injections were not administered using fluoroscopic guidance. Instead of using the incredibly accurate diagnostic fluoroscopy we use at **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** these patients experienced a blind injection technique, which can be as inaccurate as playing pin the tail on the donkey.

Once I am able to explain to my patients about the pin point accuracy of using diagnostic fluoroscopy and the amazing results viscosupplementation can provide, they are thrilled to get started. They are even more thrilled when they feel the relief. Please contact **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** today to schedule your RISK FREE consultation.

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- Patricia G.

"Over 85% relief for the first time in 15 years, suffering with knee pain. My life is getting back to normal."

- Perry O.

"After only four visits, I have absolutely no pain! The staff is "top-notch."

- Quenton L.



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PHIL NEWCOMB SWORN IN AS ADVOCATE FOR FOSTER YOUTH

The most recent class of community members – seven volunteers representing six municipalities including Phil Newcomb of Cranford – have completed 30 hours of training to become advocates for CASA of Union County, the only nonprofit advocating for the best interests of abused, neglected or abandoned youth removed from home and placed in foster care through no fault of their own.

Next, the new advocates will be matched to a foster youth or sibling set and, once legally assigned to their case by court order, can make arrangements to meet their assigned youth and begin their casework. This class ranges in age from 34 to 63 and includes both parents and nonparents, and those employed as well as retired. Experience includes teaching, law enforcement and homemaking.

Executive Director Mariel S. Hufnagel noted, “It’s such a wonderful moment when these dedicated individuals, who have made the decision to become Court Appointed Special Advocates, face the judge as they did today, as the culmination of weeks of intensive training.

Being a CASA volunteer is a tremendous commitment, and as these individuals raised their hand and took their oaths, the pride and joy was palpable.”

Terry Gould, Advocate Liaison on the Board of Trustees, added, “I have volunteered my entire life and found my CASA work most rewarding because, although my CASA youth has aged out of the system, our friendship will be forever. These new advocates are ready to hit the ground running and I am beyond excited for them and the adventure ahead!”

Since 2005, CASA of Union County has served more than 900 local foster youth and trained more than 600 advocates. With court-ordered access to the youth, foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists, teachers and others in order, advocates identify concerns and unmet needs, and ensure best interests are protected.

For details on the advocate experience and the steps to securing your spot in an upcoming training class, reach out to info@casaofunioncounty.org.



(above) Sworn in as judiciary volunteers by Superior Court Judge James Hely via Zoom with newly named Judge Stacey Boretz looking on are Phil Newcomb of Cranford; Jason Fermin of Linden; Juliann Ford of Roselle Park; Jayme Lipkin and Neetu Salhotra of Short Hills; Amanda O’Dowd of Summit and Dawn Saunders of Warren.

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CRANFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FIGHTS FOOD INSECURITY

Cranford is a great town with many houses of worship and community organizations that make it a great place to live. But we know that there are many neighbors both in Cranford and in nearby towns where families are facing job loss and health crises. The pandemic has further added to the gravity of the challenges.

At Cranford United Methodist Church, we asked ourselves, how can we make a difference? And in troubled times, how can we model kindness and generosity for our children?

Our church has a huge parking lot (next to the public library on Walnut Avenue) and a big building with an industrial-size kitchen that

enable us to host community service projects to address hunger and poor nutrition.

So, we launched a series of activities that we can do with our kids and we invite you and your family to come join us. (You do not have to attend our church to participate.)

Here are a few of the projects you may want to participate in:

The Little Free Pantry – The pantry is located in our parking lot. Drop off your food donations or pick up food for your family anytime, 24/7. Eagle scout, Josh Schwartz created this pantry (Go, Josh!).

Drive-Thru Food Collection Events – drop-off

your food donations on the scheduled monthly events in our parking lot. Drive up, pop your trunk and volunteers will remove your bags with no contact needed! Want to volunteer? Send us an email cranfordmethodist2@gmail.com and follow us on Facebook to get updates for future events, facebook.com/cranfordumc. If you need ideas on what types of food to donate, let us know.

Food Collection bins – Can't make it to the Drive-Thru events? There are bins outside the door to the church off the parking lot where you can drop off your food donations anytime 24/7.

Sandwich-Making Events – bring the kids and help make sandwiches for families in need. (Temporarily suspended due to the pandemic.) Follow us on Facebook to find out when the next event is.

All food donations are delivered to Cranford Family Care, St Joseph's Social Services Center in Elizabeth and other local organizations. At the last Drive-Thru, we delivered 11 vans filled to the brim with food.

Even as we start to inch slowly toward a new "normal", hunger continues in our area. Some of our neighbors aren't worried about haircuts and vacations, but how to pay the rent and put food on the table. The need is great. So, come join us.

Love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:39) This is the second of a series of articles by churches of the Cranford Clergy Council. This article was written by Sue Green, with photographs by Paul Lachenauer, submitted by Skip Winter.



(above) Cranford United Methodist Church invites the community to help in fighting food insecurity through their various efforts.

Photo by Paul Lachenauer

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NEW JERSEY OUTDOORS: ARCHIVE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

New Jersey is far more than just a “garden” state. While well known for its vast network of fields and farms, fresh produce and fruit orchards, New Jersey boasts incredible ecological diversity. Even those who only know New Jersey from the Sopranos have heard of the Pine Barrens. The 1.1 million acre swath of forest and wetland that confounded Chris and Paulie in the episode “Pine Barrens,” was actually the country’s first National Reserve and designated by UNESCO as a single-site biosphere reserve. It is the largest body of open space on the Mid-Atlantic seaboard and home to dozens of rare and endangered species.

Yet even though the Pine Barrens claim some 22% of the state’s land, it is not the only highlight when it comes to New Jersey’s environmental diversity. Our state hosts portions of the Appalachian Trail and the black bears who live along it, streams full of native brook trout, fields where wild turkey roam and song birds compete for blueberries, and homes for marine wildlife all along the Jersey Shore.

New Jersey Outdoors was created with the idea of highlighting and celebrating New Jersey’s rich environmental heritage. First published in 1950 by the Department of Conservation and Economic Development – the precursor to the modern Department of Environmental Protection – New Jersey Outdoors featured articles on hunting, fishing, and conservation related topics. The combination of photography and illustration by local artists gave each issue a unique personality.

The New Jersey State Library is pleased to provide free online access to its entire collection of New Jersey Outdoors. Issues from 1961-2002 have been digitized in color and are available through the Library’s Digital Collections.

Browsing the table of contents reveals the breadth of topics in each issue – from in-depth commentary on particular species, to fishing tips, and profiled conservation projects. The issues also provide a glimpse at how environmental concerns changed over time.

For example, the January 1963 issue features commentary on what could happen to New Jersey’s wildlife and food supply in the event of nuclear disaster. Tensions between sportsman and environmentalists were highlighted in the August 1971 issue – just a year after the first Earth Day and the rise of the new environmental movements. In July/August 1983, an article on urban waterfront restoration projects showed the culmination of years’ worth of work. Peppered

throughout the issues are articles on historical and archaeological topics, as researchers explored human interaction with their environment.

New Jersey Outdoors was published monthly from 1961-1973, bimonthly 1973-1991, and then seasonally from 1991-2003. Publication ended in 2003 after the publication of the Department of Environmental Protection’s new magazine, Fish and Wildlife Digest. Fish and Wildlife Digest eventually split into three separate, annual magazines: Hunting and Trapping Digest, Freshwater Fishing Digest, and Marine Digest. These magazines are also available through the Library’s Digital Collections.

Unfortunately, we are missing the earliest published issues (1950-1960) of New Jersey Outdoors from our collection. Anyone who would like to donate copies of these issues to the New Jersey State Library can contact Deborah Mercer or Caitlyn Cook in Reference Services at refdesk@njstatelib.org.



(above, l-r)) Red squirrel illustration by Reece, from the October 1965 issue, Forrest fire prevention poster from the May 1964 issue, *This is the life*”- Harry Grosch. Camping at Saw Mill Lake in High Point Park, from the July 1961 issue

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“HOW VOLUNTEERING TRANSFORMED ME:” AN INTERVIEW WITH A CARING CONTACT VOLUNTEER

Each year approximately 45,000 people die by suicide in the United States, 120 people each day, one person every 12 minutes. Though this tragically large number continues to increase annually, there is work being done to reverse this trajectory.

Caring Contact is an award-winning, volunteer-staffed crisis hotline and listening community. We compassionately serve those in emotional distress and educate our communities about the power of personal connection. In 2017, our volunteers responded to over 10,000 calls through our caring and crisis line. Contact Listeners are volunteers who listen to people in crisis over the phone. They receive 52 hours of listening and suicide awareness and intervention training before assisting people in need of support. Even after this rigorous training, most listeners are surprised by how volunteering transforms them. To give you a sense of their experience, here is an interview with a current Caring Contact volunteer listener (whose name is being withheld).

WHAT IS YOUR PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND?

I am a recent college graduate. I studied Sociology and Psychology.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR LISTENING SKILLS?

I would regard myself as a quiet listener. I know that probably sounds weird or maybe even obvious. But, after the training I realized how much talking I was doing when people were venting to me. Before I became a trained listener I don't think I realized how powerful the act of listening can be or how difficult it is sometimes. I used to be distracted when listening to people and I missed a lot. Through the training I've attached a real purpose to listening and listening well, which has made me better in a variety of aspects in my life.

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR TRAINING.

The training struck this balance between easing the volunteers into the material and also

challenging people in ways that were a bit nerve-racking. I remember my first practice session where I was acting as the Listener. All I was supposed to do was listen and reflect on a feeling or two. This, honestly, turned out to be one of the most difficult role plays because all I wanted to do was solve what seemed like an obvious problem to me, rather than just really listen to what the person was saying.

I found that the training applied to both the hotline and also my everyday life. I think everyone's family members and friends are grateful when a person takes this training. I also loved the growth of each volunteer, it is so clearly visible because of the practice sessions and utilization of the skills we learned - there is a lot of development throughout those 12 weeks.

DO YOU EVER FEEL LIKE YOU GET A CALL YOU CAN'T HANDLE? HOW DO YOU COPE?

The first few crisis calls were really scary. I remember that I decided on those few phone calls to just be there and to sit with the person in this dark, dark hole. By the end of the call we had developed a safety plan and the person was safe in that moment. After these types of calls, I usually debrief with someone in the office or another volunteer who is working at the same time as me.

Also, there is a bell in the phone room which lets someone in the office know you need help. There was one instance when my phone call got disconnected because I was so shaken up and didn't know what to do. Janet Sarkos, the Executive Director at Caring Contact and a volunteer listener, came in and talked me through the call. It's things like that that make the overwhelming calls easier. It's really helpful to be surrounded by people who have had similar calls, speaking to them is a huge way of coping for me.

WHAT TYPES OF CALLS ARE MOST CHALLENGING?

Any call that involves someone being really



(above) A Caring Contact volunteer shares what she's experienced on the suicide prevention and crisis hotline.

down, feeling stuck and alone. Those are hard calls. They aren't necessarily difficult to manage, but so many of these calls stick with me and I want to do more, to change their living situations and that's just not possible. I think the most difficult calls are those that end before it seems like we have reached a safe plan, or have made enough progress - this has happened before and it's really hard to let those calls go.

WHICH CALL WAS REALLY MEMORABLE FOR YOU?

One of the most memorable calls was from a college student. We talked for about 45 minutes. He told me that he's never told anyone the things that he's told me during our phone call. He disclosed that if he had not picked up the phone and talked to me, that he was planning on running in front of a truck on the highway. Knowing that someone called and just by speaking to me for an hour felt like they could go on for one more day, that's very powerful.

HOW DID BECOMING A LISTENER CHANGE YOU?

Being a listener has opened my eyes to how many people are struggling, how many people think about suicide but don't tell those they are close to. I now feel comfortable asking those I am close to if they are struggling or thinking of suicide. That's something I never would have done if it hadn't been for this training and experience. I now know how powerful listening can be, just listening to another person. It can change their life.

Please visit our website, www.caringcontact.org, to find out more and how you can volunteer to save a life.

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RICHARD HERNANDEZ, RECEIVES STUDENT EXCELLENCE AWARD



(above) Richard Hernandez received the Student Excellence Award from Literacy New Jersey at its Literacy for Life Conference.

Literacy New Jersey

Literacy New Jersey recently held its annual Literacy for Life Conference, a virtual conference for adult literacy practitioners. During the conference, Richard Hernandez received the Student Excellence Award from among more than 1,000 Literacy New Jersey students.

Program Director Barbara Bagger of Westfield said: "Richard is an outstanding choice for our Student Excellence Award. He is a model student and earned his high school diploma in record time. He aspires to attend college and join his brother's software business. He inspires other students to achieve their goals. We are very proud of Richard. I know that this is just the beginning for Richard."

Richard Hernandez came to Literacy New Jersey in September 2020 during the height of the pandemic. While many HSE students were discouraged from attending online classes and using unfamiliar computer technology, and faced with closed test centers, Richard persevered. Richard has lived in Elizabeth, New Jersey all of his life. He had trouble in high school because of test anxiety and accordingly did not earn his high school diploma. However, at 27, Richard made the decision to earn his high school diploma and called Literacy New Jersey to sign up for classes. Within 3 short months, Richard was a high school graduate.

His tutor, Vivian Saito, a Literacy New Jersey tutor from Westfield, describes Richard: "From the get-go Richard Hernandez was a 'go-getter'; He was determined to earn his HSE diploma within the term allotted to do so.

"Even while taking care of family obligations, Richard made time to study his lessons and complete all practice tests for class each week. I knew Richard was bound for success in earning his diploma after reading his initial writing essay (His was the first in the class to be submitted.). Richard's essay was like reading a page from a book and I told him so... Thank you, Richard, for allowing this tutor to feel my time spent has been so worthwhile with Literacy New Jersey and with students like you."

Math tutor Peggy Tung, a Literacy New Jersey tutor from Berkeley Heights added, "Richard has all the qualities that make every student a success. It can be summed up in three words: goal-setting, conscientiousness and hard-work.

"First, he set his goal, in this case, to get his HSE certificate. Then, he meticulously did everything he could to reach that goal. He understood that 'practice makes perfect' was a necessary condition for learning math. As a result, he made every effort to attend all classes while meeting family obligations. He was attentive in all classes, trying to understand the subject at hand and asking questions for clarification. He did all the homework assigned to the students, which required tenacious pursuit. Last but not least, to prepare for the test he did all sample tests in the TASC system and the extra review problems until he mastered them. His hard work paid off. He passed the math test in his first attempt, a reward for and a testament to his sustained and concentrated effort. As a math tutor, I cannot ask for more from a student than what Richard has been doing. His methodical approach to reaching his goal was exemplary. It has been a complete privilege to have the opportunity to be his tutor and to help him accomplish success. It is without a doubt that Richard will continue to complete whatever goal he sets for himself in his life."

Literacy New Jersey is a non-profit organization that helps adult students who struggle with reading, writing and speaking English. Programs include: English as a Second Language, Basic Literacy, High School Equivalency, Digital Literacy and citizenship classes. Classes are free to students and because of the pandemic, all classes are currently held online. Literacy New Jersey gratefully received support from the Westfield United Fund, the Westfield Foundation and the Elizabeth Public Library. If you would like to volunteer with Literacy New Jersey, you must be 18 years old and speak English. For more information, contact Barbara Bagger, Program Director at bbagger@literacynj.org.

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HOW TO RECYCLE

Atlantic Coast Fibers, a recycling facility in Passaic, NJ, had a tragic fire recently due to a lithium battery in their stream.

This facility and G&F Recycling & Salvage Corp., are 2 recycling facilities in our area within the last 7 months to burn down due to lithium batteries. Within the last 2 years, there have been other facilities that have had fires due to batteries in the stream.

Batteries cannot be put out for curbside single stream collection.

HOW TO RECYCLE – GIORDANO RECYCLING GOGREENGIORDANO.COM

Q: What can I recycle in my curbside bin?

A: Recycle all empty plastic bottles coded #1 & #2, aluminum & steel (tin) cans, glass bottles and jars, paper, newspaper, magazines & junk mail as well as cartons, cardboard and chipboard.

Q: How are the comingled recyclables collected curbside separated for recycling?

A: A combination of machines and employees sort all of the materials collected for recycling into metal, plastic, paper and cardboard. Plastic bags jam up the machines so please keep them out of your recycling container.

Q: What is NOT ACCEPTABLE in my recycling bin?

A: In addition to plastic bags and Styrofoam, recycling bins should be free of food waste, no takeout food containers, no dishware, glass, or mirrors, no tubs (yogurt or margarine), no paper towels, hangers, cups or plates, flower pots, video tapes, pots & pans, bulbs, batteries, hoses, shredded paper and no syringes.

Q: If an item is not on my acceptable items list, and I think it could be recycled, should I put in my recycling bin/cart?

A: No. Putting the wrong recyclables into your bin or cart will contaminate the recycling stream. The materials move quickly on the belts through the Material Recovery Facility (MRF). Machines and people cannot quickly sort all of the unacceptable items, which can create

contamination and the recovered items cannot be sold. It's best to follow the list of acceptable items. It's important to recycle, but it's just as important to recycle correctly.

Q: Why can't plastic bags go in the curbside recycling bin?

A: Plastic grocery bags are not compatible with the machines that sort recyclables at the processing facility. However, many grocery and retail stores will collect plastic bags at their entrance for recycling. Visit plasticfilmrecycling.org for a location near you.

Q: What types of plastics can I recycle curbside? Why are some plastics, like tubs, trays, and hinged (clamshell) containers not accepted?

A: The only plastics acceptable in curbside recycling are bottles and jugs coded with #1 or #2 on the bottom (milk jugs, orange juice bottles, water/soda bottles, shampoo bottles, etc.). Other plastic containers (yogurt cups, strawberry/lettuce containers, sour cream tubs, etc.) are a different type of plastic that is not able to be recycled locally.

Q: Should I leave the lids on or off my plastic bottles?

A: Take the lids off and throw them away. This helps ensure that bottles are empty of all liquids.

Q: What about Styrofoam; it displays the #6 with the recycling symbol?

A: Styrofoam CANNOT be added to your curbside recycling.

Q: What about my pizza box?

A: Pizza boxes are recyclable, food is not. Remove all the food and greasy spots and recycle the rest. If the bottom of the box is covered in grease and cheese you can tear off the top of the box and recycle it.

Q: How clean does a container need to be before recycling it?

A: Containers should be rinsed and empty. They do not need to be thoroughly washed. Sticky items such as peanut butter jars just need

to be wiped out to be "clean enough". Cardboard boxes should be free of any and all packing material.

Q: Can egg cartons be recycled?

A: There are three different types of egg cartons: Plastic, Styrofoam and Paperboard. All are unacceptable in the recycling bin but the paperboard containers are great in a compost pile.

Q: Can box cartons such as juice and dairy be recycled?

A: YES! Cartons are now accepted curbside for recycling. Make sure cartons are empty before recycling. No juice pouches at this time.

Q: What is contamination and why is it bad for recycling?

A: Any material that is not recyclable that residents put in their recycling bin. This could include yogurt cups, aluminum foil and plastic bags. Removing contamination is costly for the processors thereby increasing the cost of recycling. Some contamination can even damage the equipment at the materials recovery facility and require the whole plant to be shut down while plastic bags and video tapes are cut off equipment.

Q: How can I properly dispose of latex paint?

A: Latex paint is not hazardous and can be thrown away once dry. Garbage collectors cannot pick up liquids so remove the lid and let dry. To speed up this process, add kitty litter or paint hardener. Once dry, set out with your regular trash. For more information, please contact your county directly.

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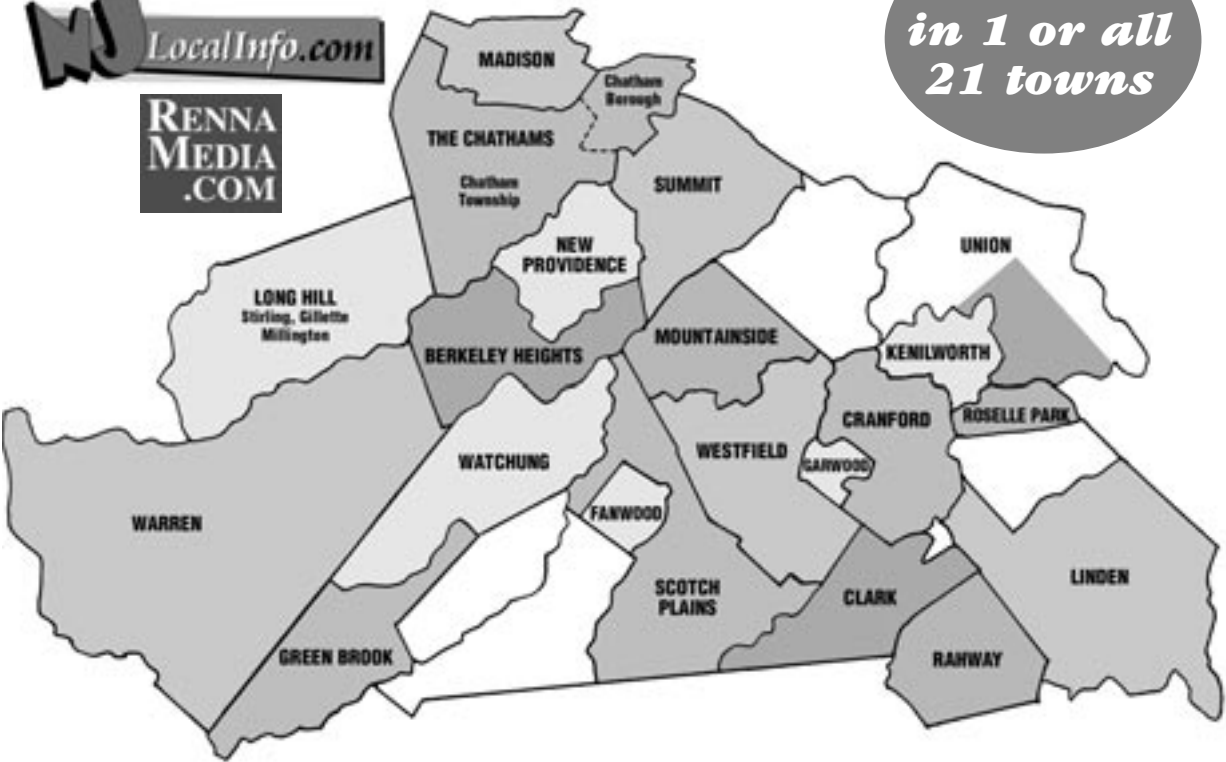
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9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700
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