

# CRANFORD MONTHLY<sub>NJ</sub>

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## GIRLS SCOUTS OF CRANFORD DELIVERING A SILVER LINING

*Submitted by Nikki Savino Mulcahy*

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted many businesses and families in a variety of ways over the past 18 months. Through these trying times, many examples of community activism have been highlighted that show the willingness to help and serve. Between March and July 2021, two Cadette Girl Scouts from Troop 40051 worked closely with Family Promise of Morris and Union County to assist those severely impacted by the pandemic as part of their Silver Award project.

Cadettes, Gianna Malecki and Bianca Romero, felt strongly about helping hard-working families who suffered setbacks during the pandemic. Gianna and Bianca worked with Family Promise to create and deliver spring baskets to children who were in the shelter. They also cooked and delivered meals to families in the shelter who were working hard to overcome their current situations. “We were so excited to deliver the spring baskets knowing the children would have such a great surprise they could enjoy!” explained Gianna Malecki.

The Silver Award is the highest honor a Cadette Girl Scout can receive. In order to achieve the honor, Cadettes identify an issue they care about, research it, and take action. Cadettes, who are in sixth, seventh, or eighth grade, work solo or collaborate in small teams to earn the award and the projects require a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer work. At the time of their project, Gianna and Bianca were eighth grade students at Hillside Avenue School in Cranford, NJ.

Further, their efforts also included involving younger Cranford Girl Scout troops with basket construction, meal preparation, and writing happy message cards. This connection provided younger Girl Scouts with their own avenue to community service. Nora Godown, Congregation Coordinator at Family Promise of Morris County, praised the project, saying “Thank you, Gianna and Bianca, for all the effort and time put into the baskets. We appreciate it so much and our families are going to be thrilled! Thanks for bringing extra joy to so many families’ Easter this year!” Their efforts will be recognized during the 2022 Girl Scouts Awards, which are held each spring.

The Girl Scouts of Cranford boasts over 1,139 Girl Scout members in 71 troops and Juliettes, 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](http://cranfordgirlscouts.com).



*(above) Cooking meals for the families of Family Promise and delivering them.*



*(above) Cadettes donating to Family Promise of Morris County.*

Photos by Girl Scouts of Cranford

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## CRANES FORD DAR LUNCHEON

*Submitted by Mary Leonard*

The Cranes Ford DAR chapter held a holiday luncheon at Costa's Restaurant in Roselle Park, NJ in December 2021. Attending were chapter members from Cranford and the surrounding Union County area.

At the luncheon, the chapter collected gift cards to be sent to Crossnore DAR School in Crossnore, North Carolina. For more than 100 years, the Crossnore School and Children's Home has provided a sanctuary of hope and healing for children. The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and

the Cranes Ford Chapter have a long relationship with Crossnore by supporting the school in various ways.

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution is a volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, historic preservation, and education. Membership is open to any women 18 years or older who can prove lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American Independence.

For more information, please visit [dar.org](http://dar.org).

### CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ

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(above) The Cranes Ford DAR chapter's holiday luncheon.

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# HISTORIC CRANFORD AUDIO TOUR #10



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(above) An example of a Historic Cranford Audio Tour with the QR code for anyone who is interested in the history of Cranford to scan.

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*Friends of the Cranford Public Library*  
Grow your own private library by attending the Friends of the Cranford Public Library's used book sale on January 21, 22 or 23. In the "Friendly Book Cellar," you will find thousands of gently used books on shelves that have been carefully organized into subjects and the books alphabetized by the authors' names.

Prices for adult books are just \$1 for paperbacks and \$2 for most hardbacks. DVDs and CDs are \$1 per disc. Children's books are only 50 cents for paperbacks and \$1 for most hardbacks. On Saturday, which is "Bag Day" you can fill an entire shopping bag with books for just \$8. At these low prices, you can easily put together a nice assortment of books for yourself and your family at a price you would pay for just a single book in a store.

Registration is required. Attendees are invited to sign up for a one hour session starting on the hour. Please sign up for one session only. Reservations for multiple sessions will be canceled except for the first session booked. Please register at [Cranfordlibrary.org/friends.php](http://Cranfordlibrary.org/friends.php). All sales benefit the Cranford Public Library.

# NEW HISTORICAL SIGNS APPEAR IN CRANFORD

Submitted by Steven Saltzman

The Cranford Historical Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB) has announced the installation of new "QR" historical signs that have just been installed in 25 locations in Cranford. Each sign has a picture from the past as well as the present along with a QR code that anyone can scan with their phone to hear Cranford Radio's Bernie Wagonblast narrate a brief history of the location or building. "We are totally excited and thrilled about this" said Maureen Strazdon, HPAB's Former Chair and Organizer of the work to get the signs designed, purchased, and installed. Funding for the signs came from a grant from the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs as well as local residents. Each sign has a recent picture of the property and one from its past.

A map of all the locations can be seen and downloaded from the Historical Preservation Advisory Board Facebook page at [facebook.com/CranfordHistoricPreservationAdvisoryBoard](https://facebook.com/CranfordHistoricPreservationAdvisoryBoard).

## THE 25 LOCATIONS ARE:

- Droescher's Mill • Cranford Park
- Rahway River (near Lincoln Avenue)
- First Baptist Church (High Street)
- Cranford Hotel • Cranford Trust
- Power Station (South Avenue)
- Cranford Train Station South Avenue
- Post Office building • World War I Flagpole
- First Public Library Building (Miln Street)
- Darsh Building • Masonic Building
- William Sperry Building
- Cleveland Plaza
- First Presbyterian Church
- Crane-Phillips House
- Kalis Manor/Church of Christ Scientist
- Hanson House • Hampton Park
- Cranford Casino  
(Riverside Drive and Casino Avenue)
- Riverside Garden Apartments
- Cranford Tile Street Signs  
(Riverside Drive and Prospect Avenue)
- English Village (on Prospect Avenue)
- and Trinity Episcopal Church.

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## CRANFORD POLICE ADDS QR CODE TO RADIO CARS

In an effort to streamline citizens’ access to crash reports, police points of contact, and to report traffic safety or crime tips immediately, the Cranford Police Department recently added a quick response, or “QR”, barcode to each of the



organization’s marked vehicles. When scanned, this QR code automatically takes users to either the App Store or Google Play Store where the free Cranford Police Department app may be downloaded.

In October of 2021, the police department announced the launch of its new, free mobile app. Being the first of its kind in this region, this new app aims to increase resident-police communications through quick push-button notifications, real-time information availability, press releases, and customer-service themed conveniences. The addition of the QR code on vehicles will increase accessibility to the new app.

With the creation and implementation of this app, residents can request traffic enforcement and submit crime tips instantaneously, which

activates automatic notifications to specific supervisors who can address these concerns. By offering this technology to residents free of charge, residents may use their smartphones to access crime mapping, request crash reports, see real-time weather announcements, read press releases and arrest blotters, request parking permits, access the department’s various social media platforms, and find local resources.

Chief Greco recognized the need to meet citizens where they are when seeking information and attempting to quickly communicate with the police department in non-emergency circumstances. “By offering our free app and now providing access to the app with a QR code, we continue to increase communication and access between our officers and the community,” he said.



(above) Cranford Police Department places QR codes on radio cars; scan to download the app!

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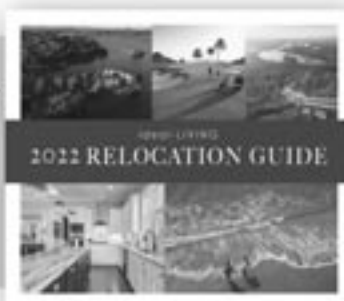
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# CRANFORD BECOMES A FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS FOR HANUKKAH

*Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim (TBEMC)*  
Cranford celebrated Hanukkah in 2021 with multiple events that brought light and joy to the township.

Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim (TBEMC) held a family community Hanukkah party on its front lawn Tuesday night, November 30, 2021, drawing a crowd of more than 125 for dancing, donuts, and the lighting of the temple’s new outdoor menorah. Local DJ, The Spinners, kept the crowd moving with Hanukkah music, pop songs, and games. “We really wanted to invite the community to share in our holiday traditions,” said Jessica Suckerman, who co-chaired the event with Andrew Feldman and TBEMC Rabbi, Paul Kerbel. “We loved seeing so many people celebrate with us.”

On Wednesday night, December 1, 2021, The Union County Torah Center-Chabad held its annual menorah lighting downtown by the gazebo. Rabbi Levi Block of Chabad said the tradition dates back more than 20 years. Mayor Kathleen Prunty lit the first candle, followed by Rabbi Kerbel leading the audience in the traditional Hanukkah prayers. Following the lighting, a festive hora dance broke out, with Cranford Police Department Chief, Ryan Greco, among the participants. Guests then enjoyed the customary sufganiyot (jelly donuts).

“We were thrilled to light our brand-new Cranford Hanukkah menorah this year. The previous one was so well used we needed to replace it, and we thank all the Cranford residents

who contributed towards it.” said Rabbi Block. “We have a long tradition of celebrating Hanukkah together with the Cranford community, and we look forward to this every year.”

Several local businesses commemorated the holiday. Pastosa Ravioli kicked off the season with a Hanukkah canned food drive on

November 21, 2021, with Rabbi Kerbel greeting and thanking donors in person. Other businesses, like Sweet ‘n Fancy Emporium, offered

Hanukkah-themed products, while Track 5 Coffee donated hot cocoa to TBEMC’s party.

“Downtown Cranford strives to host events that bring our community together while also supporting our local businesses that are the heart of our downtown.” said Caren Demyen, Downtown Cranford Director. “In 2020 we did a dreidel and menorah painting class with Fire Me Up Studio to celebrate Hanukkah, and it went so

well that we wanted to add more activities. Many of our businesses were thrilled to be part of the festivities, and we were happy to partner with other organizations in town.”

The Jewish holidays are based on a lunar calendar, and Hanukkah came early in 2021, right after Thanksgiving and concluding at sundown on Monday, December 6, 2021.

“Hanukkah is a holiday that reflects on Jewish traditions and values, but at the same time, is a universal holiday that teaches religious freedom, sensitivity to our country's many minorities, and the promotion of diversity and equality.” said Rabbi Kerbel. “TBEMC has been part of the Cranford community for more than 100 years, and we are honored to share our traditions with our friends and neighbors here. Seeing people gather together smiling and dancing was wonderful. We appreciate that our Cranford community is always willing to support us and these celebrations.”



(above) Cranford Mayor, Kathleen Prunty, lights the downtown Cranford Hanukkah menorah on December 1, 2021.

Photos by Andrew Feldman



(above) Cranford Police Chief Ryan Greco joins in a festive hora dance with Rabbi Kerbel of TBEMC and Rabbi Block of Chabad.



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# MEET PFC ARTHUR J. GALVIN, ONE OF CRANFORD'S 86

*Submitted by Donald Sweeney*

Going into our fourth year, the Cranford 86 team continues its mission, to reintroduce each of the men listed on our township's honor roll. We share with our readers, the details of what each of these servicemen has encountered while defending our freedom and preserving our American way of life. Although most of us have some knowledge of D-Day, the Battle of the Bulge, Okinawa, Iwo Jima and other famous battles, it is not until one dives deeply into history, that we can really start to understand what tribulations that members of our American military have experienced. The simple words, "Thank you for your service" are usually delivered with heartfelt sincerity. But many times, they may be said without the actual realization of what hardships may have confronted that veteran who stands before us. For each hero profile that Cranford 86 has delivered so far, we have provided the historical information that describes how one of Cranford's own was taken from us. We hope that our work also provides awareness as to the types of events that the veterans who have come home to us may also have experienced. Our team of four volunteers has vowed to continue working towards the 86th story. With the knowledge that we provide it can be realized by all, the level of respect and gratitude that is due to all of our honored military.

In our latest story, we will follow a Cranford hero, as he first becomes highly trained in state-of-the-art weaponry and then goes on to serve under a great, yet controversial general in a grueling, pivotal operation in Europe. Referring back to the Juan Bargas story, from WWI, we learned about the beginnings of the primitive two-man tank, something in which young army officers Dwight Eisenhower and George Patton were involved in, early in their military careers. In the years that passed between the two World Wars, there was little innovation in American military aircraft or mobile armaments, as our country's eye mistakenly had been taken away from the need for war tools. As the 1930's ended, the production of military equipment in Germany and Japan escalated. This became the trigger that launched America into artillery-based development, manufactured by American industrial titans. Our ground forces, which had still been using the horse as a method of mobilized attack, were about to take a giant step forward in the form of new, mechanized mobile army units. On April 15th, 1941, the creation of the 4th Armored Division placed 14 subunits into service. A 54-year-old LT General George Patton was appointed to command its development. In Pine Camp, which is present day Fort Drum, in upstate New York and Fort Knox in Kentucky, mobile armored training facilities were created. Soon 3,200 enlisted men and 600 officers began training on newly created high-tech war machines and those numbers would grow quickly to total 10,000. The attack on Pearl Harbor December 7th, 1941, would further ignite the development across the board in American armament. An acceleration of manufacturing and



*(above, l-r) Arthur Galvin portrait; An avid outdoor sportsman, Arthur loved to fish, hunt and trap; Arthur, like many Cranford kids, had a love of ice skating and excelled at this activity.*

training would now reach a fevered pitch as America and its allies would eventually amaze the world. A sleeping giant had been awakened.

Arthur James Galvin was born on November 26th, 1914, in Elizabeth, New Jersey. He was named after his uncle, Arthur Wesighan, another Cranford serviceman who lost his life while in the service of our country. Arthur Wesighan died during WWI, on July 21st, 1918, from injuries incurred in a motorcycle accident. Ironically, the accident occurred at Camp Bowie in Fort Worth, Texas, one of the facilities at which his nephew Arthur Galvin was trained. The Galvins moved to Cranford, to 830 Springfield Avenue, when Arthur was five years old. Arthur's dad, Edward, was a Cranford police officer for over 21 years. Arthur attended Grant and Roosevelt elementary schools as well as Cranford High School. The family belonged to the First Presbyterian Church in Cranford. Young Arthur seemed to enjoy life, he loved outdoor sports, especially ice skating, at which he excelled. He was an avid hunter, fisherman and trapper. While indoors, he loved to read about and sketch wildlife. Arthur was a talented artist who also loved drawing airplanes. He spent a lot of time at local airports and eventually enrolled in flying school. After high school, Arthur began working at Western Electric in Kearny. Then, as others before him had done, Arthur left his family, his gainful employment and we believe, a steady girlfriend from Cranford, to join our country in fighting a World War.

On February 20, 1942, Arthur Galvin, a 27-year-old, 134-pound, five-foot seven-inch Cranford man enlisted for duty in the US Army at Fort Dix, New Jersey, for basic training. He was relocated to Fort Knox in Kentucky on May 20th, 1942, where he was enrolled into the Armored Force Replacement Training Center in Company A, 1st BN, 2nd Platoon, on track to become a specialized soldier of the highest level. Fort Knox was headquarters of the National Tank Training Program (See the graduating class photos at [Cranford86.org](http://Cranford86.org)). From there Arthur



*(above) Edward Galvin, Arthur's dad, was a Cranford patrolman from June 1922 to May 1944, serving just 2 months short of 22 years.*

*After retirement he was employed by the Cranford Post Office. He died in August of 1961 at 71 years old.*

was moved to Pine Camp in upstate New York where Patton's newly formed 4th Armored Division had begun its training. It is here that he was trained in severe weather tactics into the winter of 1942. The yearbook of the 1942 Pine Camp graduating class was provided to us by the Galvin-Parsell family. It revealed the level of advanced training received by our hero from a country preparing a force for the new world of high-tech war tactics. From Pine Camp, the 51st Battalion of the 4th Armored Division, to which Galvin was assigned, would relocate to Camp Forrest in the Tennessee countryside near Nashville. Arthur was stationed there from September to October, 1942 in an area selected by LT General George Patton for infantry training because its hills closely resembled the terrain of

*(continued on page 10)*

## MEET PFC ARTHUR J. GALVIN (continued from page 9)

France, Belgium, and Germany. From there the 51st would travel cross country by train to Camp Ibis near Needles, California in the Mojave Desert, outside of Los Angeles. The barren land there would allow for wide open artillery training without the fear of civilian danger. The Colorado River there was used for aquatic exercises. General Patton, a California native, had started using the desert for training earlier in the war to simulate the environment of the deserts in Northern Africa. In the eyes of many observers, Patton's accomplishments and victories in 1943 in Africa made him the most successful active commander in the US Army. After several weeks in California, the 51st Armored Battalion arrived

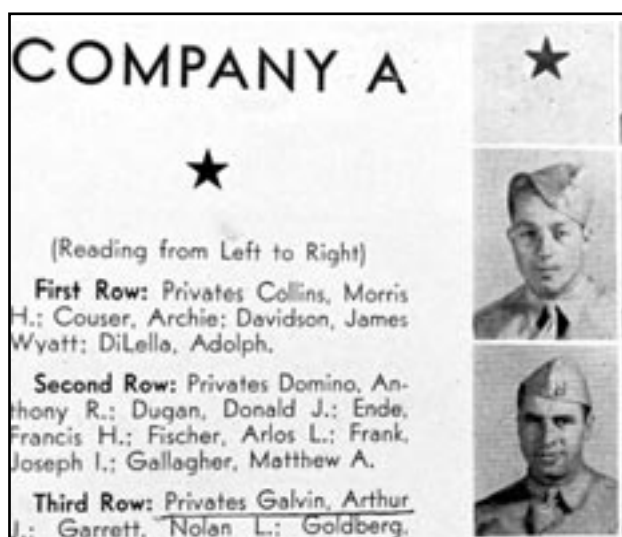
at Camp Bowie in Texas on June 3rd, 1943, it was here that many 51st members would be shifted to the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion. Without any official source regarding the redesignation of the 51st to the 53rd, we asked Arthur's family. Rose Parsell reported that the battalion's name within the return address, on the steady stream of Arthur's letters home, at this point had changed. They would train there in advanced maneuvers until December when they departed for Camp Miles Standish in Massachusetts for more winter training. Cranford 86 researcher Stu Rosenthal discovered a marriage certificate that shows Arthur Galvin marrying Ruth Brandenburg of 24 Bloomingdale

Avenue, Cranford in 1943. Since Arthur was in California, Tennessee, and Texas through much of that year, we surmise that Arthur and Ruth found the opportunity to be married in New Jersey while Arthur was stationed in Massachusetts, just before he went overseas. On December 29th Arthur and his battalion departed for England where they would stay until eventually making their way to Normandy.

In General Dwight D. Eisenhower's preparations for the largest amphibious landing attack in world history, it is important to our story to explain the diversional tactics that were put in play. The Germans had been, for some time, expecting an allied assault on the European mainland. The Nazis had created a 1500 mile long wall to protect the Atlantic coast. If they could predict where along the wall that the allies would strike, they could concentrate their armament and troops there and increase their chances for a victory. With Patton's recent successes in Northern Africa and in Sicily, the Germans felt that Patton and his Third Army would be principal players in the offensive plan. However, it was unknown to the Germans that Patton had been relieved of his command in December, 1943 when the American press learned of him striking two hospitalized soldiers who were being treated for combat fatigue.

Staging Patton in England was part of a ruse to trick the Nazis into thinking that the impending attack was coming from Great Britain to Calais. Located near Paris, almost 150 miles north of Normandy, Calais is situated where the English Channel is at its narrowest. The Germans were

*(continued on page 11)*



*(above) Arthur Galvin pictured in the bottom, right corner of this clip from the 1942 51st Armored Infantry Battalion's yearbook, from Pine Camp in upstate NY.*



*(above) This is the actual arm patch of the Fourth Armored Division worn by Arthur Galvin. The tank track represents mobility, the cannon diagonally placed represents fire power and the lightning bolt represents shock.*



*(above) The December 6th unit picture of Company A, 1st Battalion of the 53rd Armored Artillery taken before their departure to England in December of 1943.*

## MEET PFC ARTHUR J. GALVIN (continued from page 10)

led to believe that an army of 12 divisions (a division contains 15,000 troops), with Patton in charge, was situated in England directly across from Calais. But in reality, it was only a “ghost army”. Phony radio transmissions and even fake inflatable tanks and aircraft battalions were created to throw off German intelligence officers who were watching Patton’s every move. A professional actor posing as famed British General Montgomery made several impromptu appearances in England to enhance the deception. Captured German spies were fed lies and released, bringing that erroneous information with them, back to the Nazi headquarters. Intelligence reports showed that the ruse worked. The Nazis staged several tank battalions and a large fighting force at Pas-de-Calais, even after the D-Day attack began.

Finally, with over two years of intense training under their belt, the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion with PFC Arthur Galvin, along with the enormous might of Patton’s Third Army, would cross the English Channel and land on Utah beach. To get an idea of the scope of this movement, the Third Army was traveling with 933 tanks, 672 of which were M4 Sherman Medium Tanks and 261 were M5A1 Stuart Light Tanks. The tanks were accompanied by nearly 100,000 men and thousands of other mobile artillery cannons and motor vehicles. Their arrival was five weeks after the initial D-Day landings. The 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion, (Arthur Galvin’s unit of 700 men), under General Patton would now see their first combat, supporting General Omar Bradley during Operation Cobra in late July of 1944. Victory here would break the last stand of the German Army in the Normandy region. The addition of some 100,000 rested, well-trained soldiers with over a thousand light and medium weight tanks, self-propelled Howitzer cannons and Hellcat Tank Destroyers were a welcome addition to the operation. When the hard-fought battle ended it left over 100,000 combined dead, but finally ended a stalemate situation in the Normandy region. The Third Army with the 53rd would spend the last part of August supporting the effort to capture the Port of Brittany as it was badly needed by the allies. At that time, all supplies were still coming into the battle theater from the beaches of Normandy via Mulberry harbors. At this point in the war, the Germans had been

beaten back by the invading allies and had retreated to set up a western defensive line to repel the advances of the combined allied forces which were now headed for Berlin.

General Patton had not been given the lead role in the D-Day attack, which he thought he deserved and he did not play supporting roles well. In August however, General Eisenhower would order General Patton to head west toward the Rhine River, solely in command of his Third Army. In his famed Patton style, he spearheaded the Third Army, with the 4th Armored Division’s, 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion and 13 assorted units across France covering nearly 400 miles in about a week. He used innovated air reconnaissance techniques, even deploying a single engine nonmilitary, personal aircraft, to help to ensure the safety of his men. His highly motivated soldiers moved in a fashion not seen before in American warfare. General Patton was not in favor of foxholes or slit trenches and he was quoted as saying that “an army in a defensive stand was an army awaiting slaughter”. Another quote that he was famous for was “a pint of sweat could save a gallon of blood”, referring to the excessive training that he required his men to complete. The one big problem had by Patton’s Third Army, was that the enormous amount of gasoline that was needed to push a couple thousand armored vehicles across the French countryside, was not available. Each of their 600 36-ton M4 Sherman Tanks, with up to 10-inch-thick armored plates, got approximately one mile per gallon. General supplies were also in need of replenishment. Three hundred miles to the north, British General Montgomery was involved in Operation Market Garden (featured in the movie, *A Bridge Too Far*) which was in action concurrent to Patton’s attack. General Eisenhower deemed Market Garden as a higher priority. Keep in mind that during this period, 700,000 troops from England, United States, Canada, and France were all moving across the French countryside. Patton’s allotted fuel supply had run out leaving his army waiting near Metz for resupply.

On September 15th, General Eisenhower granted the 53rd enough supplies for Patton to advance across the Moselle River near the town of Nancy, and possibly advance to the Rhine. There the 2nd Calvary was holding off a German Panther Reconnaissance Battalion outside the

town of Luneville. The 4th Armored Division came to their assistance, but what they had not realized was that this small reconnaissance battalion was the tip of an iceberg. The Germans were in the beginning of gathering several tank divisions for an upcoming offensive. One German SS brigade was armed with 17 brand new Panzer IV tanks, sporting 75mm high-velocity cannons, which were bigger and stronger than anything in Patton’s mobile arsenal. That brigade had an additional 40 other tanks and armored vehicles. Just miles away and approaching were two similarly armed other brigades and still more were coming. The Third Army consisted of four tank brigades and three armored battalions as well. The Americans, while well equipped, were outnumbered and under armed. But, luckily for the Third Army, the Nazis were thin on well-trained soldiers and operators

*(continued on page 12)*



*(above) This map is part of the Parsell family archives. The red arrows show the paths of the attacking armies. The Third Army comes from Utah beach and travels east to assist General Bradley in Operation Cobra before heading west toward the German border.*

**This is the fire power that travelled with Arthur Galvin’s 53rd Armored Battalion. Separated into 3 brigades, a total of 1000 soldiers were supported by 53 Sherman Medium Tanks, 17 Stuart Light Tanks, 18 self-propelled 105 mm Howitzers and 36 Hellcat Tank Destroyers.**



*(above, l-r) The M4 Sherman Tank, built by several American companies including Ford, GM, and American Locomotive; M18 Hellcat tank destroyer, made by Buick; Stuart M5A1 light tank made by Cadillac; The self-propelled 105MM Howitzer, made by American Locomotive.*



## MEET PFC ARTHUR J. GALVIN (continued from page 11)

of their superior fire power. Also, in the Americans favor, was the air support from the XIX Tactical Air Command and its 400 fighters and fighter bombers. The Americans also had outstanding tactical commanders. Led by famed officers from the United States Military Academy at West Point, Major General John Wood of the 53rd Armored Infantry, Colonel Reed of the 2nd Calvary, Major Pitman of the 42nd Squadron and General Patton. The Americans were victorious at Luneville after a fierce four-day fire fight. On the 19th of September the Germans would retreat and move 12 miles north to Arracourt, but this battle was far from over.

The 53rd Battalion's commander, General Wood along with Patton himself would pursue the fleeing German Panzer Battalions and would engage them at Arracourt. At this point in the story, as I have done many times before, I found myself wondering exactly where was our Cranford hero Arthur Galvin now, as he and his battalion moved further and further into France. There had been numerous attacks and victories being matched with equal counterattacks and recapturing the same objectives repeatedly. The fighting at Arracourt continued until September 29th and in the end was considered a stalemate. The German Panzer forces had been so badly mauled by Patton's army that they were incapable of any additional offensive action. It was said to be the largest armored contest between the German and Allied forces in the European Theater of Operations to that point in the war, but was dwarfed just 3 months later by the Battle of the Bulge, which General Patton and his Third Army were a large part of as well. The blow-by-blow accounts of this month-long non-stop battle of heavy metal was heart pounding and hard to even fathom. Links to the reports that we were able to find and a YouTube video of the Battle of Arracourt are on the Cranford86.org version of our story. The shortage of fuel again foiled Patton's plan to move forward in pursuit of the enemy toward the Rhine River. After the battle Patton received orders from General Eisenhower to stay put and go on the defensive, not a position Patton was comfortable with.

After surviving such a firefight for more than a month, we can imagine that Arthur Galvin was relieved to be alive. But sadly, just about one week later, he died. There are conflicting reports as to the manner in which his death occurred. His obituary simply said that he was killed in action near Metz, France. In his father's retirement article, it stated that Arthur died in action at the Battle of the Bulge. Upon further research we discovered a handwritten letter filed at the Cranford Historical Society which indicates that Arthur died of a gunshot wound. His official military record from the Army archives stated that he died on October 8th, 1944, while in Juvrecourt, just 3 miles from Arracourt. Cause of death was an injury to the thorax, resulting from an exploding artillery shell. The record also stated that the wound was not battle related. In his last letter home, Arthur said they were sitting in slit trenches in a sea of mud. The 53rd Regiment Armored Infantry Battalion seemingly,

was still in a defensive stand, waiting for fuel needed to attack Germany across the Rhine River, which they were eventually able to do. Now knowing what General Patton felt about slit trenches and being in a defensive stand, we know he was not happy about the state that the 3rd Army was in at this particular time. A letter to Arthur's mother Minnie Wesighan Galvin was also found at the Cranford Historical Society. It was from Arthur's best friend, CPL Lester Emmet Lott. The two soldiers were together through their training at Pine Camp in NY and throughout the many conflicts in which they were involved. He wrote that they had travelled deep into France and that Arthur was "the best soldier" and they were under the "heaviest shell fire." He ended his note saying, "your son is a hero".

The Cranford 86 team will continue to seek out the details on how this highly trained soldier lost his life while in the service of our country. He left the comforts of home in Cranford to answer the call of duty and deserves to have his complete story told. Arthur was survived by his wife Ruth and his mother and father. At the time of Arthur's death his father had recently retired from the police department and was working at the Cranford Post Office. Arthur also left behind two sisters, Mrs. Anne Preuss of Cranford and Mrs. Edna Parsell of Westfield. While researching and writing this story we were lucky enough to be in contact with Edna's son John Parsell and his wife Rose, now living in Brick, New Jersey. They were able to provide input from the military memorabilia that they have from Arthur's life which includes a stack of letters sent home that were received throughout his years of service.

Arthur was buried at Lorraine American Cemetery in St. Avold, France and remains there to this day. He would have been 30 years old on November 26, 1944. Arthur Galvin was the 26th of 54 Cranford men who lost their lives while serving in WWII.

Special thanks go out to Arthur Kennedy and Jennifer Goodwin who sponsored the banners of Arthur Galvin. Arthur Kennedy is a second-generation Cranford postal manager and Jennifer Goodwin has been the face of the Cranford Post Office service window that most every Cranford resident has visited. Thanks also to Sgt. Steve D'Ambola of the Cranford P.B.A. for also requesting the sponsorship of Arthur Galvin. After informing Steve that PFC Galvin was no longer available, the P.B.A. selected another hero, we are grateful for that.

PFC Arthur James Galvin's banner will be dedicated at the Cranford Memorial Day ceremony that follows the annual Memorial Day Parade. The members of the Pruess and Parsell families hope to join us there and we invite all of our readers to attend as well. If anyone has any information regarding any of the Cranford 86 or their family members, we urge you to contact us at [info@cranford86.org](mailto:info@cranford86.org). The Cranford 86 project is happy to announce that we have now officially joined the Cranford Historical Society as part of a 501C3 non-profit organization. Our project will still maintain its current team of four as we continue forth with our mission. Checks for donations and banner sponsorships should now be made payable to the Cranford Historical Society and in some cases now can be tax deductible.



(above) Arthur Galvin's final resting place at Lorraine American Cemetery in St. Avold, France. It is believed that he was killed by an exploding artillery shell.

### CRANFORD 86

Those who gave their lives in service to our country.

#### DID YOU KNOW ONE OF THE CRANFORD 86?

You can email us with any information

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### If Knee Surgery Sounds Scary, It Should

Have you have been told you are facing knee replacement surgery? Have you been told about all the downsides you could be facing? First and foremost, there are NO guarantees that knee replacement surgery will be the answer to your pain, but let's look further:

- Surgery is costly, regardless of the percentage of services covered by insurance.
- Surgery requires lost time from work and typically requires a regimen of rehabilitation and medications.
- With surgery, there is always a risk for unwelcomed complications. And you could be back to where you started, or worse.
- Medications will be required for relief from surgery and you have been down that road before. Additions to these pain medications can cause potential side effects, something you do not want to experience.
- Rehabilitation can take years.

### Consider This Alternative To Surgery

**Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** offers you a real opportunity and a painless way to say goodbye to your knee pain without any surgery. Here are just a few of the important benefits you should consider?

- Diagnostic fluoroscopy accurately targets the pain, unlike blind injections.
- Guided fluoroscopic injections are virtually pain free, unlike blind injections.
- No lost time from work or family.
- No expensive or time consuming rehabilitation.
- No potentially addictive prescription medications.
- Recovery time is almost instant, not months or years.

### How Does This New Treatment Work?

Relief begins almost as fast as it takes to pronounce the treatment. It's called Viscosupplementation Therapy. To begin with, it starts with **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** investing in the use of diagnostic fluoroscopy. This enables them to target the exact location of your knee pain with pinpoint accuracy. What follows is a simple injection that causes little to no pain, especially when compared to what you may be living with daily. That explains what you will see on the surface of this revolutionary treatment. What's taking place below the surface is how and where the natural healing process takes place. The injection of a Hyaluronic acid called Hyalgan. This gel-like substance was approved by the FDA in 1996. Hyalgan is a natural substance that mimics the synovial fluid that is already produced by your body in your joints. Osteoarthritis sufferers in particular see a reduction in this much needed synovial fluid in their knee joints. Without that cushioning layer of protection, the cartilage in your knee can begin to wear away leading to the rubbing of bone on bone. Through Viscosupplementation Therapy, this natural substance immediately goes to work reducing the swelling and inflammation in the joint and adding a coating layer of protection. Think about Dorothy taking the oil can to The Tin Man. You'll begin to feel that same kind of relief and quite possibly feel like you're ready for a dance down the yellow brick road to recovery yourself. And with a success rate of over 85% in alleviating pain associated with osteoarthritis, it's easy to see why this treatment is so readily covered by Medicare and by most major insurance providers. Diagnostic fluoroscopy to target the pain. Viscosupplementation Therapy to relieve the pain. Simple, fast and no surgery!

### 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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Scot Paris MD, FACS

### Here's what our patients have to say

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## LIBRARY PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

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Sat: 10am - 2 PM; Sun: Closed

### Virtual Workshop Jan. 12

Wednesday, January 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Join the Cranford Public Library for "Talking to Children about LGBTQ+ Identities: a Workshop for Caregivers". This free program provides a crash course in starting sensitive and respectful conversations around LGBTQ+ identities with children of all ages. The virtual workshop, led by Garden State Equality, is open to anyone with an interest in leading empathetic conversations with children. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

### Author Robyn Gigl Visits

Saturday, January 29, at 2 p.m.

The Cranford Public Library and the Cranford Unity Project are thrilled to welcome author, attorney, speaker, and activist, Robyn Gigl, to the Cranford Community Center. Gigl's first novel, *By Way of Sorrow*, a legal thriller published in March 2021, received positive reviews from the New York Times Book Review, Publishers Weekly, and Booklist. Her latest book, *Survivor's Guilt*, will be released on January 25, 2022. The series takes place in Cranford! Gigl has been honored by the ACLU-NJ and the NJ Pride Network for her work on behalf of the LGBTQ+ community; she was also selected as one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers in New Jersey for 2020 and 2021. Join the library for a book launch event for *Survivor's Guilt*, including an author talk, excerpt reading, and Q&A. Books will be available for purchasing and signing. Registration is required.

### Food and Wine Writer Visits

Thursday, January 6, at 7 p.m.

Further, join food and wine writer, Dr. Mark Vogel, at the Cranford Community Center. for a comprehensive guide to buying, storing, serving, and cooking with wine. No alcohol will be served or permitted. This program is for attendees aged 21+ only; identification showing proof of age will be required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. Registration is required.

### What Determines Value"

Wednesday, January 26 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

In addition, author, auctioneer, appraiser, and radio show host, Mike Ivankovich, will introduce you to "What Determines Value"... and reveal what your antiques, collectibles, and personal treasures are really worth from the comfort of your own home. Each attendee is invited to bring 1-2 items for Mike to appraise virtually. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

## CRANFORD KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DONATION TO FLAG

In the spirit of supporting our Cranford local restaurants and businesses and worthy charities and organizations, the Cranford Knights of Columbus donated \$5,000 to FLAG for Cranford (FLAG) from the proceeds of the Council's Annual Golf Outing on Tuesday, November 30th before the November Business Meeting. The Council Golf Committee came up with a "double duty dollars" concept of purchasing gift cards and gift certificates from the restaurants and businesses that have been our loyal worthy supporters. The gift cards and gift certificates are then given to FLAG for distribution to first responders and the organizations that they have been supporting since their inception.

The Cranford Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Fraternal Organization dedicated to our Four Core Principles, Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. The Cranford Council supports many charities and civic causes locally, state-wide, and nationally and is committed to be a viable part of our community.

For information about joining the Cranford Council, please contact Grand Knight Jerry Conheeney at 908-416-3464 or visit the Council web site at [cranfordknights.org](http://cranfordknights.org).



(above, l-r) Caren Demyen and Rebecca Tantillo of FLAG with Past Grand Knight & Golf Outing Chair John Doolan, Grand Knight Jerry Conheeney, Worthy Chaplain Monsignor Tim Shugrue and Past Grand Knight Jim Feehan, Jr.

## 2021 BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

### Cranford Knights of Columbus

For the past 20+ years, the Cranford Knights of Columbus has supported the annual breakfast with Santa sponsored by the St. Michael's Home School Association and held at St. Michael's School. Each year, the Council purchases, pays for, cooks and serves all of the food to all of our guests. Past Grand Knight Pat Forker is our Santa and he takes pictures with the families and collects gift wish lists from the children.

This year, the Council sponsored a poster contest, the theme was 'keeping Christ in Christmas,' and provided coloring books for each child in attendance. Many volunteers and Brother Knights worked together to make this an

enjoyable experience to usher in the Christmas Season.

This year's event was a tremendous success with 237 adults and children participating.

The Cranford Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Fraternal Organization dedicated to our Four Core Principles, Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. The Cranford Council supports many charities and civic causes locally, state-wide, and nationally and is committed to 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 the Council web site at [cranfordknights.org](http://cranfordknights.org).



(above) Local legend has it that Past Grand Knight Pat Forker is Santa.

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## CAMP AND CHILD CARE OPEN HOUSES - JAN. 8

### WESTFIELD AREA YMCA

The Westfield Area YMCA will hold Summer Day Camp and Child Care Open Houses on Saturday, January 8 from 10 a.m. - noon.

Summer Day Camp Open Houses will be held at the Main Y Facility, 220 Clark Street and the Garwood Family Center Y, 500 East Street. All

Westfield Area YMCA camps are ACA-accredited. Traditional, sports, S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) and leadership development camps are available for children and youth ages 3-15. The Y offers full-day and half-day camps by the week or all summer long. Camp Early Bird registration

begins January 3 and ends on January 31.

Child Care Open Houses will be held at the Bauer Branch, 422 East Broad Street; Early Learning Center, 170 Elm Street; Main Y Facility, 220 Clark Street; and Garwood Family Center Y, 500 East Street. Registration for the 2022-23 school year for full-day child care, half-day and full-day preschool, full-day Kindergarten, Kindergarten Wraparound and Garwood after school care will be available. Registration for Westfield after school care will begin in March.

For information on all Westfield Area YMCA programs and services, visit [westfieldynj.org](http://westfieldynj.org) or call the Welcome Center at 908-301-YMCA (9622). The Y is the nation's leading nonprofit committed to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify.



(above) Westfield Area YMCA Blue Sky Camp

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## SANTA DELIVERS EARLY SMILES IN CRANFORD

More Than 2,500 Toys Collected for Charity and More Than 2,000 Presents Delivered!

Santa Claus came early to Cranford again this year by way of the Cranford Jaycees' Santa Deliveries and Toy Drive. Over the course of two nights, Santa made stops at almost 900 homes to deliver a total of 2,021 presents, often escorted by flashing lights from a Cranford Police Department vehicle and a team of elves.

The visits were part of an annual toy collection drive where parents donate a present for families in need throughout the region. The parents can then have a wrapped present delivered by Santa to their home on a weekend night. The drive netted more than 2,500 toys, filling two U-Haul trucks, that were distributed to Cranford residents and several local organizations: Trinitas Regional Medical Center pediatric division, the New Jersey

Community Development Corporation in Paterson, the Wynona's House Child Advocacy Center, and the Salome Urena School in Newark.

The program is a longtime Cranford tradition that has nearly doubled in size in the last five years. More than 60 Jaycee members volunteer to support the event, from organizing presents by region and loading delivery cars to planning traffic routes and suiting up as Santa Claus. Eight teams, each with a Santa and elf helpers, delivered the presents each night.

The Jaycees credit the Cranford Police Department, Cranford Police Auxiliary, and Cranford Fire Department for their support with this year's deliveries, as well as Steve Robertazzi from the Cranford Recreation and Parks Department for the use of the Community Center as the staging location.

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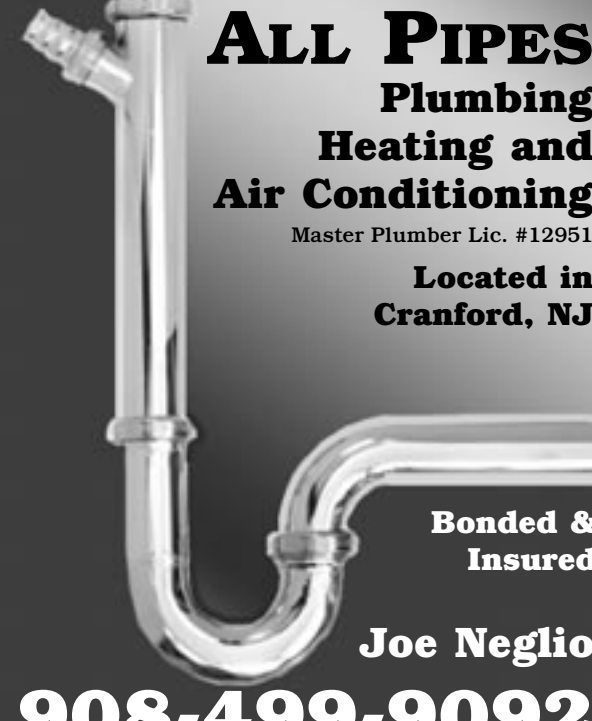
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Controlled class sizes and average 16:1 student-teacher ratio fosters individualized attention and offers students the ability to engage in classroom inquiry, discovery, and learning.

The early childhood education program offers pre-kindergarten 3 & 4 (full and half day) and full-day academically based kindergarten. On site before and after care is also available.

Extracurricular activities include instructional and competitive sports programs, instructional music, drama and Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts.

The faculty and families of St. Michael School will invite you to attend one of our upcoming Open House sessions on:

**Thursday, January 27th**  
**7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday, January 30th**  
**12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

If you're interested in learning more about St. Michael School & all that our school has to offer, please contact the school directly at 908-276-9425 or [saint.michael@verizon.net](mailto:saint.michael@verizon.net)

For a copy of the St. Michael's School brochure, virtual tours and for more information about the school, visit: [www.smscranford.com](http://www.smscranford.com)  
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## OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

**Thursday, January 27, 2022**

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Sunday, January 30, 2022**

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

**PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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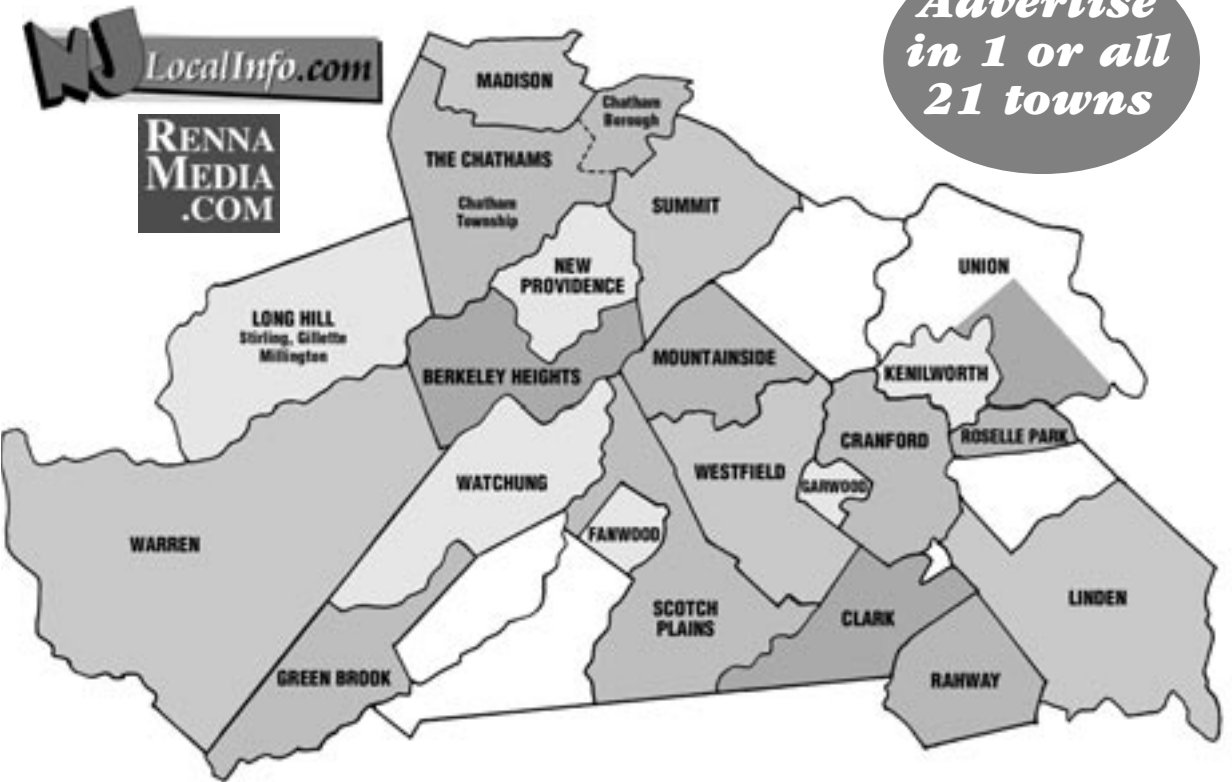
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## KENILWORTH CHESS CLUB IS BACK ON BOARD

The Kenilworth Chess Club resumed meeting on November 11, 2021, after twenty months of being closed due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

Club President Jack McCorkell of Cranford held a "Welcome Back Tournament" to celebrate. The casual unrated tournament excited members, and even some new arrivals, who were itching to play "over the board" again. The three-week tournament ended in a tie for first place between Hanna Malko of Clark and Joe Renna of Cranford.

The club was formed in 1972 amid the chess craze in America spearheaded by Bobby Fischer's march to the world championship. For 45 years the club was a force to be reckoned with as its member roster included many Master level players, including state champions.

The club has a reputation for being friendly and accommodating. It welcomes non-members with no obligation or cost. It's a place where beginners can learn in a casual setting without being intimidated. Strong players are generous with their time in analyzing and giving instruction.

The club's website, [kenilworthchessclub.org](http://kenilworthchessclub.org), is well read and features an award-winning blog by Michael Goeller and other instructional features.

Players are welcome to just pop into the Kenilworth Chess Club with no formalities every Thursday evening at 8 p.m. at the Kenilworth Community Center located next to Kenilworth Borough Hall on the Boulevard and the corner of 24th Street.



(above, l-r) Brandon Verno of Kenilworth, John Moldovan of Garwood, Hannah Malko of Clark, Jack McCorkell of Cranford, Mark Shoengold and Louis Leiggi of Colonia analyze a critical position during the post mortem of Welcome Back Tournament game between Verno and Leiggi held at the Kenilworth Chess Club.

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