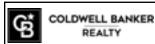
CRANFORD MONTHLYNJ

Published by Renna Media

Issue 99 • February 2022



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GIRL SCOUTS OF CRANFORD 2021 BRONZE AWARD HONOREES

Submitted by Nicole Savino Mulcahy

many great achievements for Cranford youth. Most notably, Cranford Girl Scout Cadette Troop 40194 and Troop 40836 worked tirelessly, despite the challenges of COVID, to create amazing projects that have a tremendous impact upon their community.

The Girl Scout Bronze Award is one of the highest honors awarded to a Girl Scout in the 4th or 5th grade at the Junior Level. Each Bronze Award project must be centered around making a significant contribution to the community. Cadette Troop 40194 worked tirelessly for two years to bring joy to our local senior residential communities, initiating various projects on the grounds of the facilities from painting pumpkins to creating snowmen, plus much more. Their goal was to bridge the gap between the generations and make sure the senior members of the community knew they were cherished and valued. In addition, Cadette Troop 40836 created a Mindfulness Garden at Livingston Avenue School. Their goal was to provide a haven of calm and a retreat for students and faculty to enjoy. Each troop sought out projects that would be meaningful and provide opportunities to truly connect with the community.

The Girl Scouts of Cranford, led by Service Unit Leader, Elayana Torsone, were honored to award Cadette Troops please visit cranfordgirlscouts.com.

40194 and 40836 with their recognitions at a Bronze Award The past two years brought many challenges as well as ceremony on November 8, 2021 before their family members and honored guests. Senior Girl Scout, Adrianna Pizzuta, served as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening, and gave many inspirational words of encouragement to the group. The troops presented their projects and shared the special meaning behind their work.

> Girl Scouts of Cranford would like to wish congratulations to the following recipients for their well-deserved Bronze Award honor:

> Troop 40194 — Kayla Barrett, Jordan Cheeks, Chloe Collins, Ariel Epstein, Lanna Gonzales, Elizabeth King, Luna Lopes, Kaylee Patt, Isabella Reibarkh, and Anamika Vidwans

> Troop 40836 — Evelia DeMera, Kira Frydman, Rachel Kielczynski, Grace McDevitt, Brooke Nixon, Isabella Parente, Maddie Petino, Giuliana Testa, Aubrey Walsh, and Cassidy Walsh

> 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.

Photo by Girl Scouts of Cranford



(above) Troop 40194 — Kayla Barrett, Jordan Cheeks, Chloe Collins, Ariel Epstein, Lanna Gonzales, Elizabeth King, Luna Lopes, Kaylee Patt, Isabella Reibarkh, and Anamika Vidwans; Troop 40836 — Evelia DeMera, Kira Frydman, Rachel Kielczynski, Grace McDevitt, Brooke Nixon, Isabella Parente, Maddie Petino, Giuliana Testa, Aubrey Walsh, and Cassidy Walsh; Service Unit Leader, Elayna Torsone; and Senior Girl Scout, Adrianna Pizzuta.



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MINDFULNESS GARDEN RETREAT AT LIVINGSTON AVENUE SCHOOL

Submitted by Nicole Savino Mulcahy

Graduations typically mark a time when students end their educational career at one institution, and move onto the next adventure ahead. Many times, the vision is solely focused on the future and what lay ahead. This was not the case for Cranford Girl Scout Cadette Troop 40836.

Cadette Troop 40836, who had been together throughout their three years at Livingston Avenue School in Cranford, New Jersey, felt compelled to give back to their second home even after graduation. They decided the best way to honor the experiences they enjoyed at Livingston Avenue School was to create a project for their Bronze Star that would help future generations of students to come. Troop 40836 created a plan to engineer a Mindfulness Garden, which would serve as a retreat at Livingston Avenue School for all students.

This effort brought the Scouts together with their former school principal, Mrs. Lopez, as well as Bartell's, and Westfield Lumber, to realize their vision for the school grounds. In order to fund their project, Troop Leader Faith McDevitt explained, "The girls had a two-day 'Make and Bake Sale' to raise funds for the garden, and then built the garden after school and on weekends in September."

The process of envisioning and creating the Mindfulness Garden was more than just a way to give back to their beloved school, this was also an opportunity for team building. Cadette Grace McDevitt explained, "By working on this project, I learned the importance of working together as a team and patience." This project has added so much character and serenity to the grounds of Livingston Avenue School. All students are able to retreat to this area and find a moment of calm

as well as enjoy the hard work of Troop 40836.

Cadette Troop 40836 was awarded the Bronze Star at the November 8, 2021 ceremony at the Cranford United Methodist Church. They presented their project to the audience in attendance and proudly received their recognitions. The Cranford Girl Scout Community is truly proud of this endeavor as it symbolizes our mission of service and support to others by sharing our strengths and talents.

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.



(above) Cadette Troop 40836's Mindfulness Garden at Livingston Avenue School in Cranford, New Jersey



(above, l-r) The troop with their former and current LAS Principal, Mrs. Carly Lopez; Aubrey Walsh, Maddie Petino, Brooke Nixon, Kira Frydman, Cassidy Walsh, Mrs. Lopez, Rachel Kielczynski, Isabella Parente, Grace McDevitt, Evelia DeMera, and Giuliana Testa

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GIFT CARD TO SUPPORT CRANFORD BUSINESSES

Downtown Cranford has launched its own Gift Card to support the small business community. The Downtown Cranford Gift Card can be loaded with \$20 - \$500, and spent right across the town.

Caren Demyen, Director at Downtown Cranford, said the Downtown Cranford Gift Card will help to keep Cranford dollars in the community. "Last holiday season, many residents asked us for the option to have a Gift Card just for Cranford and it's something residents have requested for some time. I'm so grateful for the support of our community businesses in stepping up to fund the start-up cost for the Downtown Cranford Gift Card. Gift Card balances do not expire and there is no deduction if you don't use the Gift Card for a period."

Caren added "The pandemic has been hard for businesses in Cranford but we're lucky that we have a really strong community. Residents realized that our small independent businesses needed support and they were there to help. The Downtown Cranford Gift Card is a new way that we can support our businesses as it can be spent right across Cranford, in retail stores, restaurants, salons, gyms, bakeries, and more."

Over 99 businesses accept the new Downtown Cranford Gift Card. The Downtown Cranford Gift Card is available to buy in person at the Downtown Cranford DMC office, or on-line at downtowncranford.org. For questions or bulk orders, please contact dmc@cranfordnj.org.



(above) Cori Ardente, owner of Anthem Style+Give and children's store Max & Luna, with new Downtown Cranford Gift Card.

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RELIEF FROM CHRONIC KNEE PAIN

FDA Approved Treatment to Avoid Surgery

DON'T BLAME THE ARROW FOR MISSING THE TARGET

Just like tens of millions of other Americans, you were looking for relief from your chronic knee pain. You thought Viscosupplementation injections might be the answer, but the results were disappointing and painful. Don't assume the treatment wasn't right. That could very well be like blaming the arrow for its path to the target when the problem might be the archer. If you didn't get the pain relief you were hoping for, chances are your injection treatment was off target. Unlike blind injections or even ultrasound targeted treatments found elsewhere,

Northeast Spine & Wellness Center uses diagnostic fluoroscopy to make sure the area that needs treated is the exact area where the injection goes. This is the most advanced method of delivering this pain relieving treatment with 95% accuracy to give you the results you're looking for. The use of Fluoroscopy guided injections sets Northeast Spine & Wellness Center apart. The end result is you living pain free from your chronic knee pain. You can avoid the lengthy and painful road of knee replacement surgery. You can avoid the endless trial and error assortment of potentially addictive prescription medications. This treatment, using fluoroscopy guided injections has seen a success rate of above 85% in those suffering from knee pain related to osteoarthritis, and that includes people with bone on bone involvement. You've suffered from chronic knee pain long enough. Call Northeast Spine & Wellness Center now for a RISK FREE consultation.



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 surpery and you have been down that road before. Addictions 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 pinpoin 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

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
- 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

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 fluoro scopic guidance. Instead of using the incredibly accurate diagnostic fluoros

copy 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 fluoror copy 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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CRANFORD POLICE CELEBRATE 125 YRS

As the Cranford Community reflects on last year's commemoration of the Township's 150th Anniversary, the Cranford Police Department will celebrate its 125th Anniversary in 2022, Chief Ryan J. Greco announced on January 19, 2022. As part of the announcement, the police department released its official 125th Anniversary logo.

The Police Department's 1897 incorporation year was predated by Cranford's Thief Detecting Society and a Constable with 3-year terms of service. As the Thief Detective Society's 20-year charter came to a close in the late 1880's and citizens demanded more protection of the community, Cranford's premiere enforcement agency was created. While Cranford did not see its first Police Chief until 1917 upon the installation of Chief William Jennings, in its 125-year history Cranford has been led by 11 Chiefs of Police and has been served by hundreds of decorated, dedicated officers.

An accredited law enforcement agency since 2006, the 53-officer highly-specialized municipal police agency consists of a Patrol Division, Investigative Division, Community Support Services Division, Training Division, Detective Bureau, Juvenile Bureau, Traffic Bureau, Records Bureau and a Community Outreach Unit. In addition to their daily responsibilities, officers serve on teams within the organization including the Crisis Intervention Team, Water Rescue Team, Mobile Command Unit, Special Operations Team, Firearms Qualifications Unit, Honor Guard Unit, Domestic Violence Liaison, Accreditation Team, and the Internal Affairs Unit. In January, the Cranford Police Department submitted for reaccreditation recognition from the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of (NJSACOP), confirming organization's dedication to optimal law enforcement professionalism.

To commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the organization, throughout the year the Cranford Police Department will showcase its history and traditions with the public while hosting community events to share its past with the extended community. Some tentative events include a Township Parade, a Commemorative 125th Anniversary Badge, and monthly historical highlights on the organization's social media platforms. "The community is an integral part of our organization's history and support, and we look forward to celebrating this milestone with our residents in 2022," Chief Greco said.

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CRANFORD EMPLOYEES HONORED FOR SAVING A LIFE

Cranford Knights of Columbus

On December 16, 2021 before the Council General Meeting, the Cranford Knights of Columbus honored Lt. Chris Polito, Ptl. Corey LoForte, and Cranford Construction Official Frank Genova for successfully resuscitating a resident who had collapsed in the Municipal Building on November 1, 2021 due to a cardiac episode.

Mr. Genova started life-saving measures and was assisted by Lt. Polito and Ptl. LoForte who administered CPR after determining that the man had no pulse. After about two minutes of CPR treatment and oxygen, the victim gasped for air and Cranford emergency personnel transported him to Newark Beth Israel Center for further treatment.

The Council presented each honoree with a certified American flag that has flown over the Capitol in Washington, DC in recognition of

saving the resident's life.

Four Core Principles, Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. The Cranford Council supports many charities and civic causes locally, state-

wide, and nationally as well as is committed to The Cranford Knights of Columbus is a be a viable part of our community. For Catholic Fraternal Organization dedicated to our information about joining the Cranford Council, please contact our Grand Knight Jerry Conheeney at 908-416-3464 or visit the Council website at cranfordknights.org.



(above, l-r) At the flag presentation: Grand Knight Jerry Conheeney, Ptl. Corey LoForte, Lt. Chris Polito, Frank Genova's brother-in-law, Brother Bill Singer, accepting the flag on Frank's behalf, and Deputy Grand Knight Kevin Cumiskey.





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INTERNET SAFE EXCHANGE LOCATION ESTABLISHED

Cranford Police Department

Online platforms such as Offer Up, Craigslist, and Facebook Marketplace have provided a means for individuals to buy and sell new as well as used items with ease, but where should Cranford residents conduct in-person transactions? Thanks to two Cranford Police Officers, an internet safe exchange location has recently been established outside of the Cranford Police Department.

Detective John Rattigan and Patrolman Christopher Folinusz recognized that the frequency of online purchasing has increased recently. While many individuals comfortably interact with potential buyers or sellers online, when it comes to exchanging goods in-person, a common problem arises when determining "where" to conduct the in-person transaction. After submitting their proposal to the

organization, Detective Rattigan and Patrolman Folinusz unveiled their internet safe exchange location on January 12, 2022, conveniently located in the Cranford Municipal Parking Lot adjacent to the Municipal Building. The first two parking spaces nearest the entrance off of Springfield Avenue in Cranford are marked with an "internet safe exchange location" sign and are monitored by surveillance cameras.

While the Cranford Police Department provides this free location to exchange goods in person, no members of the Cranford Police Department are present to regulate sales transactions or become involved in civil matter disputes. "The purpose of establishing this location was to welcome our residents to a safe location that has individuals nearby 24 hours a day, 7 days a week," said Chief Ryan Greco.

SOME OTHER TIPS FOR BUYING AND SELLING INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Use cash to conduct the transaction and beware of common scams.
- Meet during daylight hours.
- Bring a friend to feel extra comfortable, especially with high-value items.
- If you run into any red flags, like an individual refusing to meet at a public place, trust your instincts and cancel the transaction.

According to Safe Exchange Point, the safest exchange locations are easily accessible, visible with adequate signage, located in a well-lit public place visible to passersby, and in locations with high quality video surveillance.



(above) Patrolman Christopher Folinusz and Detective John Rattigan at the Internet Safe Exchange Location at the Cranford Municipal Building.

Photo by Cranford Police Department





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CENTENNIAL VILLAGE WELCOMES WAVES SALON

veterans of the premier fashion salon of Westfield, have ventured out on their own, creating a salon that will offer the most current hair fashions and modern chemical services in a big city space with small town warmth.

The pair have been close friends throughout their adult lives and are excited about their new professional partnership.

Carissa comes from a background of hair color education as a regional educator for IT&LY Hair Fashion of Milan, Italy as well as the staff artistic educational director at her previous salon.

Jamie has spent her 20-year career following

Carissa Bowden and Jamie Gorombey, 20-year celebrity stylists attending advance workshops nationwide. Together they plan on building a staff of talented professionals that will grow together to create a destination salon here in Cranford.

They are pleased to announce the addition of their first staff stylist and esthetician. Lene Chappell comes to Waves from the world-famous Robert Cromean Salon in San Diego and Brianne Gorombey-Adragna brings her skills and talents in waxing, facials, and make-up.

For more information about Waves, visit their website at wavessalonnj.com or call 908-941-7197. They are welcoming Cranford residents with a special 20% off your first service.



The artistic team of Waves Salon cut the ribbon at their new ultra-modern salon nestled in the lobby of the Luxury apartment spaces of Centennial Village called "The Centennial" at 310 Centennial Ave. on the corner of Lehigh Ave. (above, l-r) Leanne Chappell, Brianne Gorombey-Adragna, Jamie Gorombey, Carissa Bowden, Mayor Kathleen Prunty, Centennial Village Group President Chiara Siliato and Chamber of Commerce representative Michael Flynn. The brief ceremony was followed by an afternoon luncheon that turned into a late-night dance party hosted by the Southside Social converted horse trailer/mobile bar.

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PAJAMA PARTY WITH PURPOSE

Submitted by Nicole Savino Mulcahy

feelings of good will. The particular 2021 holiday season was very special for the newly minted Hillside Avenue School Girl Scout Daisy Troop 40400. The Daisy troop teamed up with the Cranford Theater to create a festive program that not only provided holiday joy, but helped the Girl Scouts of Cranford give comfort and joy this holiday season.

Daisy Troop 40400 was determined to earn their Mari (orange) petal with a service project that was meaningful and impactful. Troop Leaders Kim Forman, Corinne LaPlaca, and Lisa Williams reached out to the Cranford Theater and organized a fantastic event for Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., a special showing of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Participants were encouraged to donate new pajamas or a book to the Pajama Program. Scouts would receive a Fun Patch for participating in the evening and making a donation. It was a truly festive and fun night for everyone. The Daisies were able to collect pajamas and books for the Pajama Project while collaborating with a local business.

After the successful event, the donations The holiday season typically fills us with needed to be sorted and delivered to the Pajama Program. "I want to help mommy! This is fun!" said Daisy Scout, Bethany Williams, when her mother and Scout Leader, Lisa Williams, explained that they would need to sort through all of the donations. The event was quite a success, collecting 68 pairs of pajamas and 57 books for children donated to the Pajama Program. Troop 40400 earned their Mari Petal as well as many smiles amongst the 161 movie patrons in attendance that evening. The collaboration between the Girl Scouts of Cranford and our local Cranford Theater to raise awareness for children in need, was truly a gift this past holiday season.

> 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.



(above, l-r) Top Row: Savannah Forman, Anika Rantanane, Allie Clifford, Bethel Tesfagiorgis, Ruby Suckerman, and Riley Englert. Bottom Row: Saide Pedde, Emelia LaPlaca, Madison Peluso, and Bethany Williams

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NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Cranford Family Care Association

VALENTINE'S DAY EVENT

College Women's Club Cranford

If you don't have plans for Valentine's Day evening, the College Women's Club of Cranford would love to see you at their free educational program, open to all! The club is happy to welcome back as guest speaker Dr. Michael Norris, former educator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and founder of ArmchairArttours.com.

Dr. Norris will take us through an exploration of the ever romantic French impressionist art often focused on modern young women and children. The program will specifically look at the life and loves of Berthe Marie Pauline Morisot and her very close relationship with Edouard Manet. A unique love story.

Join the ladies for a meet and greet with some treats and sweets at 7:30 p.m. on February 14th, the program will immediately follow at 8 p.m. Bring a date or a friend! The club meetings are held in person at the first Presbyterian Church of Cranford, in the youth center.

The College Women's club fundraises exclusively for local youth providing multiple scholarships each year to ambitious high school seniors. We provide free monthly educational programs that are open to the public.

For more information visit collegewomensclubcranford.com, and/or you can email the club at cranfordcollegeclub@gmail.com.

The Jardine Academy and Cranford Family Care, located next to each other on Myrtle Avenue in Cranford, have been good neighbors for years. The school has provided additional space for donations and the students have helped by bringing items to Cranford Family Care when requested.

Recently, the two programs have found another way to support each other. High School student Juan Perez is working at Family Care packing and unpacking donations as well as delivering meals to Cranford seniors a few times a week. The collaboration between the two programs provides the students with valuable community-based education experiences as well as supporting the daily operations of Cranford Family Care.

"This is a win-win" says Jardine Academy principal, Cynthia Isaksen, "Julie Carroll, Cranford Family Care Director, has been so supportive and has truly encouraged student participation. She has embraced our staff and students and we are very excited to work together as much as possible."

Julie Carroll echoes the benefits of working together with the Jardine Academy stating, "Cynthia Isaksen and Jardine Academy have been so supportive of CFC. We truly appreciate all of the students and staff in helping with our food pantry and with delivering food to Cranford Seniors."

Cranford Family Care has been serving the Cranford community since 1936. For more information visit cranfordfamilycare.com.

The Jardine Academy is an approved private school of the New Jersey Department of Education. It is operated by the Cerebral Palsy League and accredited through The Middle States Association. It is also the only M.O.V.E. (Mobility Opportunities Via Education) Model Site in the state of New Jersey.

The academy provides elementary and secondary education for children and young adults, ages 3-21, with multiple disabilities. The

comprehensive curriculum is aligned with the New Jersey Common Core Standards and focuses on self-care, health and fitness, interpersonal skills, mobility and functional academics. For more information visit theepline.org/jardine.html.



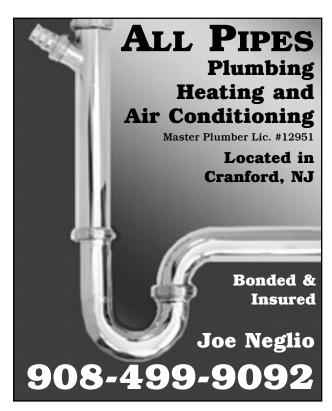
(above) Juan Perez is helping Cranford Family Care with packing and unpacking donations as well as delivering meals to Cranford seniors a few times a week.



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THREE COUNTY FAMILIES MADE OFFICIAL ON NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

Multi-town parade includes superheroes, gift baskets and more

CASA of Union County

The frosty morning of Nov. 19 may have been any other Friday for many, but for three Union County foster youth in Rahway, Roselle and Roselle Park, all under age three, their lives changed forever, as Union County Superior Court Judge Lara DiFabrizio granted each the consistency and stability deserved by all children, finalizing their adoptions and ending their time in the child welfare system. Each family had their own CASA volunteer working the case.

The annual event is held the Saturday before Thanksgiving and courts nationwide often celebrate National Adoption Day the business day before, or even open on Saturday, to hold adoption hearings. Here in Union County, all hearings were performed via Zoom due to Covid-19, and Judge DiFabrizio made official what each child likely already felt: they were finally home.

Despite the virtual component, those involved

ensured the excitement was palpable. Upon completion of each adoption, the homes were visited by a caravan of fire trucks, police cars, court staff, law guardians and other case stakeholders, CASA of Union County staff and two of its interns suited up as Captain America and Mr. Incredible, and the bear mascot from Kenilworth's David Brearley Middle and High School. All cheered for the family, where each took their first official photo together, and the children spent time with the superheroes and school mascot.

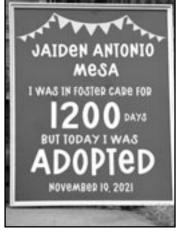
Families received a hot breakfast donated by Urban Griddle in Elizabeth; a flower bouquet provided by Jane Phillips who, until her recent retirement, headed the Adoption Day Committee for the judiciary; and a gift basket from CASA of Union County made possible by collections of board and card games, puzzles and movie night fixings from the Kenilworth school and Summit's

Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child. The latter collection was spearheaded by Desiree Mitchell, daughter of CASA volunteer Hope Mitchell, and included fleece blankets made with classmates. In addition, each child and all siblings received their own superhero dress-up costume and books hand selected by the Phi Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha. Each family received a WalMart gift card funded by the Union County Bar Association. Costumes for CASA's interns were loaned by generous members of the Facebook Buy Nothing Group in Cranford and

Today, more than 120,000 youth nationwide need a permanent home, with an average wait in foster care of four years. Each year, 23,000 youth age out of the system without a family or safety net in place. For details on CASA of Union County's mission, the need for volunteer advocates and how to become one, contact Lucia at lfield@casaofunioncounty.org or log on to casaofunioncounty.org.







(above) Upon completion of each adoption, the homes were visited by a caravan of fire trucks, police cars, court staff, law guardians and other case stakeholders, CASA of Union County staff and two of its interns suited up as Captain America and Mr. Incredible, and the bear mascot from Kenilworth's David Brearley Middle and High School.

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RESIDENTS TO COMPETE AT THE 2022 SPECIAL OLYMPICS USA GAMES











(above) Brian McAuliffe, Brian Curci, Jessie Gaeta, Michael Gaeta, Bob McAuliffe, Brian's dad, selected coach of the Basketball Team.

Submitted by Eileen Gaeta

Exciting news! Three 2017 Cranford High School alumni, Brian Curci, Jessie Gaeta, and Brian McAuliffe, were selected to compete for Team New Jersey at the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games. The Games are scheduled for June 5–12, 2022, in Orlando, Florida, and will unite more than 5,500 athletes as well as coaches from all 50 states and the Caribbean. In order to qualify to compete, each athlete had to achieve a gold medal in their respective sport while competing in the 2019 Special Olympics New Jersey Summer Games.

Brian Curci will be competing for Team New Jersey Soccer. Brian has been participating in the Special Olympics for the past 13 years. He won his first gold medal in track and field at the age of 10, and currently plays soccer, basketball, tennis, and volleyball, proudly winning gold medals in each of those sports as a member of the NJ Hawks. Brian attended Cranford High School where he earned varsity letters in swimming, tennis, and basketball. He was also the team manager for the varsity soccer team and now holds that same position at East Stroudsburg University, where he attends college. In 2017, Brian was selected to play at Major League Soccer's Special Olympics All-Star game in Chicago, representing the New York Red Bulls Unified team. Additionally, Brian loves to sing and dance on stage as a cast member of the performing arts group, Shining Stars Network. He also loves to spend time with his friends, play video games, and listen to music. Brian's biggest fans include his Mom, Sally, Dad, Mike, and his brother, sisters, and brother-in-law, Nicole, Michael, Courtney, and Jamie, as well as his Grandparents, Edith and Paul Curci. Brian is honored to have been selected to represent Team New Jersey in soccer and calls it "A dream come true."

Jessie Gaeta will compete on Team New Jersey Swimming. Jessie has been participating with Special Olympics New Jersey for the past 12 years. Currently, she competes in swimming, golf, and basketball, achieving gold medals in all three. Jessie had to choose only one of those sports to try out for and she selected swimming. Jessie previously played volleyball, softball, and soccer for the NJ Hawks. While attending Cranford High School, Jessie was a four-year varsity cheerleader and she also loves dancing and singing. She has been performing in Shining Stars Network Special Needs talent shows for the past 10 years. Jessie receives a lot of support in

all her endeavors from her Mom, Eileen, Dad, Jerry, brothers, Mike and Bobby, her Pop-pop, John Ahimovic, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. To keep busy during the pandemic, Jessie started weaving looped potholders, which now has become a small business, and also worked at Compassion Café on Long Beach Island in the summer of 2021. Jessie is honored to represent Team New Jersey and looks forward to meeting other athletes from around the USA while enjoying sites in Orlando, Florida.

Brian McAuliffe will be competing on Team New Jersey Basketball. Brian has been participating in Special Olympics for 15 years and currently plays basketball, golf, and swimming. In the past, he also participated in soccer, track and field, and bowling. Brian has three sisters who support him in everything he does. Further, Brian loves his job at Vinny's Pizza and Pasta in Cranford, where he makes pizza boxes four days a week. He is also an avid performer with the Shining Stars Network, where he sings and dances in their spring and Christmas shows. He is a Class A "Ham" when it comes to being on stage. Brian is very excited to represent Team New Jersey in Orlando, Florida for the USA Games as well.

In addition to these three athletes, Bob McAuliffe, Brian's dad, was selected to coach the Team New Jersey Basketball Team. Bob has been coaching and volunteering with Special Olympics New Jersey for 15 years. He coaches the High Expectations Hawks Basketball Team, has coached soccer and swimming, and is Brian's Unified partner for golf. One of his most memorable moments in the Special Olympics was when he was an assistant coach for the Unified Basketball Team that participated in the 2014 USA Games hosted by New Jersey. It was a once in a lifetime experience that he now will have another chance to fulfill as head coach of the 2022 Special Olympics New Jersey Basketball Team. When not on the court coaching his teams, Bob loves to spend time with the family — his wife Eileen, daughters Danielle, Erin, Kelly, his son Brian, and dog Dunkin (yes - named after the coffee shop). Bob is honored to have been chosen to be part of this spectacular event and is looking forward to representing Team New Jersey at the USA Games in Orlando, Florida.

Also from Cranford, Michael (Mike) Gaeta, Jessie's brother, was selected to be the Unified partner for golf athlete, Daniel Maloney, from Medford, New Jersey, on Team New Jersey Golf.

Mike has been participating with Special Olympics New Jersey for 6 years as a Unified partner in the sport of golf. He enjoys participating in the Special Olympics because he has been able to spend more time with and compete with his sister, Jessie, as well as get to know other athletes in different sports. Mike attended the University of Scranton, where he earned his Doctorate degree in Physical Therapy. He currently works in the field of outpatient physical therapy at Excel PT in Westfield, New Jersey, where he enjoys treating various individuals with different injuries, post-surgical cases, and athletes. In his free time, Mike enjoys spending time with his family and friends, playing golf, going to the beach, boating, and fishing. He is looking forward to building new relationships with Team New Jersey members, watching his sister compete in swimming, and competing against other athletes in the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games.

Team New Jersey consists of 138 athletes and 37 coaches and will be participating in 14 different sports. Please support our Cranford Athletes on their journey to Orlando! Your support helps send these athletes and teammates to represent thousands of Special Olympics New Jersey athletes across the state at the 2022 USA Games.

To learn more about the team and support their journey to Orlando, visit TeamNJ.org.

ABOUT THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS USA GAMES:

On June 5–12, 2022, the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games will unite more than 5,500 athletes and coaches from all 50 states and the Caribbean, 20,000 volunteers, and 125,000 spectators during one of the country's most cherished sporting events. We all have reasons to shine. For Special Olympics athletes, one of those reasons is the love of sport. By celebrating their dedication and perseverance, we become champions for a more inclusive world. A world where we all Shine As One.

For more information, visit

2022specialolympicsusagames.org.

ABOUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEW JERSEY:

For over 50 years, Special Olympics New Jersey has provided year-round sports training and athletic competition in 24 Olympic-type sports for thousands of children and adults with intellectual disabilities, completely free of charge. Through the joy and power of sports, athletes develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy. Visit sonj.org for more information.

FEBRUARY 14 IS NATIONAL ORGAN DONOR DAY

NJ Sharing Network

New Jersey - and not just because it's Valentine's Day! NJ Sharing Network and its many healthcare partners and volunteers throughout the state are working together to register as many organ and tissue donors as possible in celebration of National Organ Donor Day.

"National Organ Donor Day is about taking action and inspiring others to learn more about how they can save lives through organ and tissue donation," said Joseph S. Roth, president and chief executive officer of NJ Sharing Network. "One organ and tissue donor can save eight lives and restore health to over 75 people. I am confident that everyone's efforts on National Organ Donor Day will go a long way toward bringing hope to those currently waiting for a transplant."

Currently, there are over 110,000 Americans – nearly 4,000 of whom live in New Jersey waiting for a life-saving transplant. In New Jersey, one person dies every three days waiting for an organ transplant.

However, the generosity of those in the Garden February 14 is all about sharing some love in State is providing hope for the future. New Jersey's organ and tissue donor registrations continue to rise thanks to strong community education and outreach efforts as well as simplified ways to register as an organ and tissue donor are also helping to save more lives. It is easy for New Jerseyans to register in any of the following options:

> Online at NJSharingNetwork.org; Through the iPhone Health App; In person at your local Motor Vehicle Agency

> Observed every year on February 14, National Organ Donor Day is dedicated to spreading awareness and education about organ and tissue donation. It is also a day to recognize loved ones who have given the gift of life, have received a transplant, are currently waiting or did not receive an organ in time. National Organ Donor Day was started in 1998 by the Saturn Corporation and its United Auto Workers partner with the support of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and many non-profit health organizations.



(above) Cranford's Emma Rothman Celebrated

10 Years with Heart Transplant in 2021.

Photo courtesy of NJ Sharing Network

SHOE DRIVE

The Garwood Public Library, in collaboration with MoreSteps, is conducting a shoe drive February 1st through February 28th. Donations of new or lightly worn shoes will benefit the Ozanam Family Shelter in Edison.

Please write the shoe size on a piece of paper, place it inside the shoes, put the shoes in a sealed bag, and drop them in the box located in the library parking lot, 411 Third Ave, Garwood, NJ.

Are you ready for the Winter!

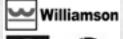


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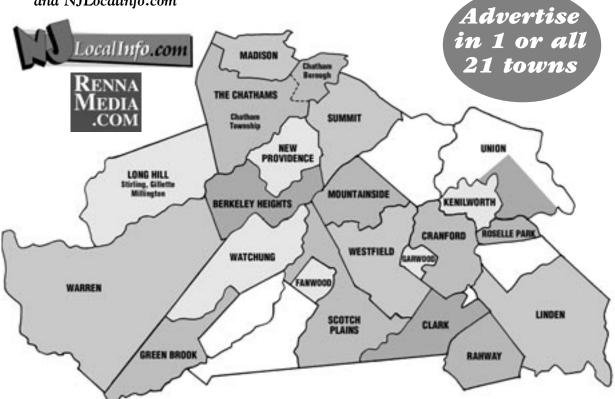
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SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Submitted by Christopher D. Sands

The General Phil Kearny Camp #20 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) held its quarterly meeting on November 13th, 2021 at the Abraham Clark House, located at 101 West 9th Avenue, Roselle, NJ. Three new members were sworn in and a presentation on FreeMasons in the Civil War was given. Since the new school year has started, the camp has begun planning how it will cover the awarding of the SUVCW ROTC/JROTC to the approximately thirty schools in the area. The camp covers all of North Jersey above the Raritan River to the New York Border.

The SUVCW is a fraternal organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of veteran heroes who fought and worked to save the Union in the American Civil War. The organization meets four times a year and the meetings in 2022 will be on March 5th, May 7th, September 10th, and November 5th, all starting at 1 p.m. For more information, visit suvcw.org.

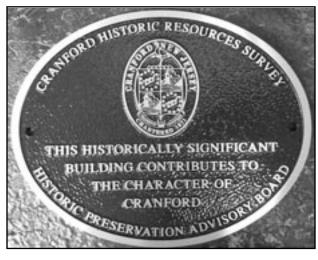


(above) Camp Commander, Peter Lindsey, swears in Fredrick Dillman and Robert Caruso during the SUVCW Gen. Phil Kearny #20's November 13th meeting.

HISTORIC PLAQUE PRICE INCREASE ANNOUNCED

Submitted by Steven Saltzman

Residents in Cranford's North Historic District have been able to purchase distinctive 8" x 10" oval bronze plaques for \$150 for some time, but due to materials costs increases, the Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB) has been forced to announce a \$25 price increase taking effect March 1, 2022. For residents living in the North Cranford Historic District who would like to own one of these distinctive bronze plaques, now is the time to order one. Visit preservecranford.com and check the map on the homepage to see if your house is eligible as a contributing home within the North Historic District. A small number of these distinctive plaques are currently available and the plaques are hand delivered to your home. Plaques are bronze, designed to be attached to the outside of your home, and show your personal interest and commitment to preserving Cranford's historical heritage. If you have any questions or want further information, please write preservecranford@yahoo.com.



(above) Example of a plaque that can be ordered for residents living in the North Cranford Historic District.

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Opera in Ebony

Thursday, February 16, 2022 at 7 p.m. Join Librarian and Opera Singer, Tanisha Mitchell, on Zoom for another exciting virtual opera talk. "Opera in Ebony" will pay tribute to legendary African American singers who performed at prestigious venues like the Metropolitan Opera, La Scala, and the Royal Opera House. Sound clips featuring Marian Anderson, Leontyne Price, Paul Robeson, and George Shirley will be included. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Registration is required and can be done visiting cranfordlibrary.org.

Live Theatrical Performance

Saturday, February 12, 2022 at 2 p.m The Friends of the Cranford Public Library invite everyone to attend a live theatrical performance — from the safety and comfort of your living room. New Jersey's own Theater Project will present a virtual script-in-hand reading of an original short play. The reading will be followed by a question-and-answer session with the audience, director, playwright, and cast. Funds benefiting the Theater Project have been provided by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. Registration for this virtual program can be done by visiting cranfordlibrary.org.



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