

CRANFORD MONTHLY_{NJ}

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TIGER SCOUTS ROARING FOR SERVICE

Submitted by Nicole Savino Mulcahy

December marks a time of reflection and giving for many in our community. For those involved in Scouting, the willingness to give yourself in service to others is learned at a young age. Cub Pack 75 has an incredibly enthusiastic group of young first graders from across Cranford in their Tiger Program. During the course of this year, Tiger Scouts will work on a variety of Scouting Adventures that seek to assist with character development, good citizenship, building respect for others, fostering a sense of achievement, and service to the community.

The Cub Pack 75 Tiger Dens 2 and 5 collaborated with the Salt and Light Ministry of St. Michael's Church for their December community service project as part of their "Team Tiger" adventure, which focuses on teamwork. Each Tiger family donated snack and drink items that the Scouts then

used to assemble snack bags. Den 5 Leader, Laura Rutzler, explained, "The boys were so excited to work together to decorate and assemble the snack bags." The snack bags were distributed to children in need through Catholic Charities, Family Promise, St. Joseph's Social Service Center, Cranford Family Care, as well as parishioners in need. Zachary Rutzler, a First Grader at Brookside Place School said "I was happy to help people." Together, the 36 Scouts assembled and donated about 200 snack bags. They accomplished their Team Tiger Adventure and served their community as well as Cub Pack 75 proudly in the 2021 holiday season.

Cranford Cub Scout Pack 75 provides opportunities for youths in Kindergarten through 5th grade to explore activities centered around earning badges that are specific to each school grade level. If your family is interested in learning more about Cranford Cub Scout Pack 75, please visit cubpack75.com.



(above, l-r) Tiger Den 5: Ethan Rochowiak, Zachary Rutzler, and Roman Gens



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Cranford Monthly is published by Renna Media. 9,900 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Cranford.

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Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (accomplishment, honor, award, etc.), send us your news!

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Cranford Monthly

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LADIES' NIGHT OUT SET FOR MARCH 23

Project Home of Cranford is excited to announce that they will be hosting Ladies' Night Out on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 from 6:30 - 10:00 p.m. at the Westwood, 438 North Ave. in Garwood.

Ladies Night Out is Project Home of Cranford's largest fundraiser that they hold each year, and due to COVID-19 have been unable to host this event for the past two years. They are excited to bring this event back as it is always a perfect opportunity to catch up with friends, make new friends, and to help a local organization whose mission is to help Cranford residents who are in danger of losing their homes due to crisis situations, such as illness or job loss.

The evening includes a sit-down dinner with wine, a tricky tray auction with a large variety of items, and an evening of socializing and catching up with friends. All the profits from this event go to help Cranford Family Care, a local charity that assists Cranford families in need.

Due to COVID-19 protocol there will be a limited number of tickets available for this year's event. Tickets can be purchased on the Project Home of Cranford website. Tickets are \$60 each (includes dinner, wine and raffle tickets). New for 2022 there will also be advance sales of additional raffle tickets



available on the Project Home of Cranford website.

Please visit projecthomeofcranford.org for tickets and additional information.

For over 25 years Project Home of Cranford, a 501(c)3 charity has been working through Cranford Family Care to keep Cranford families in their homes. Ladies' Night Out is our largest fundraiser and a popular event that regularly attracts many local residents. This can be the perfect opportunity for merchants to advertise their businesses by donating to the event or becoming an event sponsor.

If you would like to donate goods or services, become a sponsor of the event or inquire about the tickets for Ladies' Night Out or just find out more about Project Home and our mission please email us at projecthomeofcranford@gmail.com, visit us at projecthomeofcranford.org/ and Like us on Facebook: [projecthomeofcranford](https://www.facebook.com/projecthomeofcranford).

THE SPRING REAL ESTATE MARKET IS HERE!

Our home preparation recommendations are different for all of the homes we list for sale. Here are some ideas if you're considering selling.



Barbara Zeckman/Realtor
908-418-3503

Barbara.zeckman@cbmoves.com

Let the sunshine in! Wash those windows and remove dark window treatments. If your kitchen and bathroom cabinets need a facelift replace old knobs and hardware with current, popular choices.



Diana Dollard Hearn/Realtor
908-656-5940

Diana.dollardhearns@cbmoves.com

The sense of smell is the strongest of all the senses to connect buyers to a home. While a bad smell can deter buyers (think smoke, pet odors, mildew), a good smell can tempt buyers to a home. Cleans & neutral is best! Natural oils can be used in moderation to create a calm, spa-like atmosphere. Strong candles and plug-ins can be overwhelming and should be packed away.



Cindy Merlino/Realtor
732-910-2082

Cindy.Merlino@cbrealty.com

Curb appeal! The lawn should be tidy. Trim shrubbery, add in mulch and plant some flowers. Make sure the driveway, walkways and sides of the home are power washed where needed. Little touches such as new house numbers, a new mailbox, or newly painted front door make a difference.

Reach out to any one of us for a COMPLIMENTARY CONSULTATION & MARKET ANALYSIS when selling a home is on you're mind



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(above) Volunteers remove donations from cars at a Drive Thru Food Collection sponsored by the Cranford Girl Scouts and the Cranford United Methodist Church.



(above) Look for this sign on March 12 when you drop off non-perishable food at the Cranford United Methodist Church.

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DRIVE-THRU FOOD COLLECTION – MARCH 12

Cranford United Methodist Church is teaming up with the Cranford Girl Scouts to host its next Drive-Thru Food Collection on Saturday, March 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Church parking lot at 201 Lincoln Avenue East, Cranford.

Many of our neighbors are still struggling to keep food on the table and your help is very much needed.

Place your bags of non-perishable food in your trunk, drive up, pop your trunk and volunteers will remove them! No contact needed. Your food donations will be delivered to Cranford Family Care, St. Joseph’s Social Services, and other local organizations serving families in need.

WE ARE IN SPECIAL NEED OF:

- Paper towels, toilet paper, tissues
- Hardy fresh produce like bags of apples, onions, and potatoes
- Cooking oil, canned tuna, canned chicken,

shelf-stable milk, spices, salt, pepper, tea, coffee, sugar, flour, crackers, soup, cereal, canned vegetables, rice (one or two pounds), lentils, beans, cake mix, cake frosting, dish detergent, soap, laundry detergent, toothbrushes, and toothpaste.

Can’t make that date? There are bins placed outside the entrance to the Church off the parking lot where donations can be dropped any time, 24/7.

Here’s an idea: Many of the younger Girl Scouts are setting out bins on their porches to make it convenient for neighbors to donate. Why not get your kids involved, too? Set out your own bin and invite your neighbors to participate. Then drop off the donated items at the event on March 12.

Please spread the word by letting your neighbors know about this event. Questions? Email: scarusogreen@gmail.com.

Photo by Cranford United Methodist Church

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THE DROWSY CHAPERONE TO BE PRESENTED BY CHS

Travel back to the glamorous world of the 1920's and attend one of Cranford High School Performing Arts Department's performances of The Drowsy Chaperone. The performances will be held on March 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. and March 13 at 2 p.m. in the Cranford High School auditorium.

Focusing on a musical theatre fan, we follow his storytelling of his favorite classic musical as it comes to life right in front of his eyes (and ours!). Originally opening on Broadway in 2006, the show was nominated for and won five Tony awards and seven Drama Desk awards. The musical's book is by Bob Martin and Don

McKellar, and music and lyrics by Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison. The cast, crew, and production team look forward to the chance to "Show Off" the talent of Cranford High School! For ticket information, please visit chs.booktix.com or email Miss Elizabeth Sheehan (sheehan@cranfordschools.org).



(above) The cast of The Drowsy Chaperone.

Photo by Cranford Public Schools



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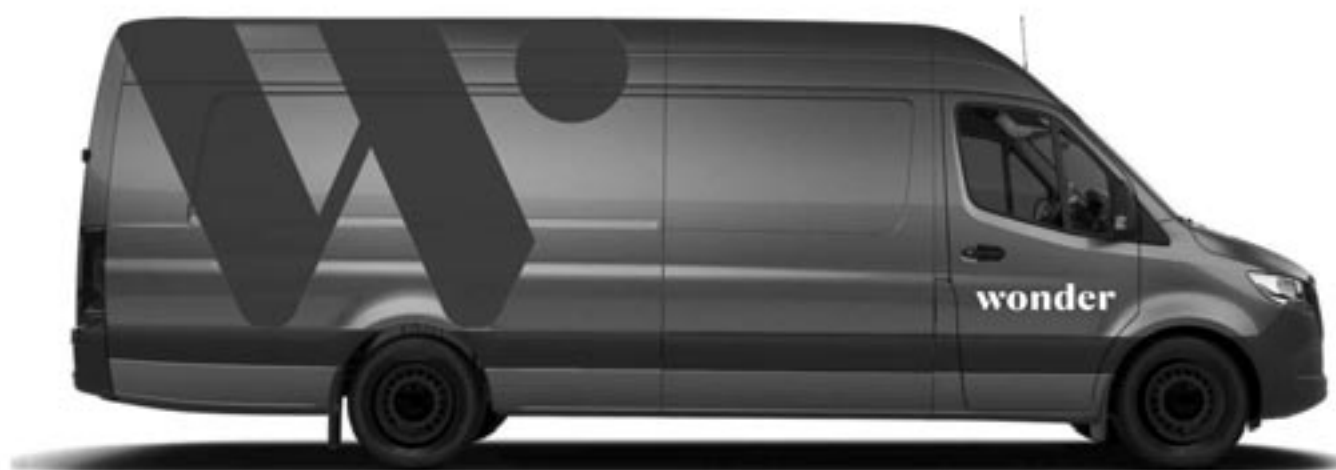
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MOBILE MEALS OF WESTFIELD

“On behalf of our clients, thank you!” declared Ruth Maloney, President of Mobile Meals of Westfield, in accepting donations from the Sheet Metal Workers’ Union No. 22, \$350 Shop Rite food card; and the Optimist Club of Westfield gift of \$50 food cards in support of Mobile Meals’ clients.

Each year, Optimist Club of Westfield



(above) Sheet Metal Workers’ Union No. 22 presented Mobile Meals of Westfield a \$350 Shop Rite food card donation on November 10.

Representing the union was and Business Representative, Financial Secretary/Treasurer Jason Rooney. Accepting the donation was Mobile Meals Operations Manager Josephine Walsh.

distributes food baskets to families and individuals in need. The program spans 31 years. Because of Covid, this year food cards were donated in place of the food baskets. In presenting the donation, Darielle Walsh of Optimist Club of Westfield said, “We are always looking for deserving families and individuals who can benefit from our food program.”

Mobile Meals of Westfield is a non-profit organization which provides prepared meals for

those individuals unable to provide meals for themselves. Mobile Meals serves the communities of Clark, Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, food services or those wishing to donate can visit the Mobile Meals website at mobilemealsofwestfield.org or call 908-233-6146.



(above, l-r) Row 1: Gene Jannotti, Mike Walsh, Mary Ellen O’Boyle, Darielle Walsh (all of Optimist Club); Ruth Maloney, Josephine Walsh, Cherie Parker (of Mobile Meals). Row 2: Jayson Astel, Ray Kostyack Tony LaPorta (of Optimist Club). For more information about Optimist Club of Westfield, visit westfieldnj.com/optimist/index.htm.

Photos by Mobile Meals of Westfield



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RELIEF FROM CHRONIC KNEE PAIN

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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 surgery 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 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.

Call 732-827-0800

Scot Paris MD, FACS



Here's what our patients have to say

"I'm dancing without pain. I can move with no problem whatsoever. I can go up and down steps with no pain."

- Patricia G.

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

- Perry O.

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- Quenton L.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEEKING MEMBERS

The Cranford Historical Society is a non-profit educational organization whose mission since 1927 has been to preserve and perpetuate the history of Cranford for now and for future generations. We cordially invite you to join us. By becoming a member you will help support the continuation of our archives collection, costume department, the maintenance of the Hanson House and Crane-Phillips House Museum, our 3rd grade school tours, our History Award program given out to a Cranford High School Senior every year and our community outreach programs and events for visitors of all ages. Also, our members receive 5 issues a year of our electronic newsletter, the "Mill Wheel" which is full of informative and interesting facts and stories about Cranford and its people.

A 2021 Membership Form can be found on the Society's website at cranfordhistoricalsociety.org.

For more info about joining the

Cranford Historical Society, please call the Society's office at 908-276-0082 or

e-mail cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net.

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PROMOTION AND APPOINTMENT CEREMONY

Cranford Police Department

At a ceremony held in Municipal Chambers on December 15th, 2021, the Cranford Police Department promoted Detective Shayne Temple to Sergeant and appointed Gianna Ricerca, Anthony Giannico, and Liam Duffy as Probationary Patrolmen. Additionally, Lt. Perrotta was recognized for his promotion from Sergeant to Lieutenant. Public Safety Commissioner Jason Gareis and Chief Ryan J. Greco led the ceremony, which was attended by Deputy Mayor Brian Andrews, Township Administrator Jamie Cryan, Township Clerk Patricia Donahue, Township Attorney Ryan Cooper and members of the Cranford Police Department.

Prior to his promotion Sergeant Temple was assigned as a Detective in the Traffic Bureau. Additionally, Sgt. Temple served as a Field Training Officer, Drug Recognition Expert, and as a member of the special operations and a Crisis Intervention Team. Sgt. Temple is a certified alcotest operator, Share the Keys Facilitator, NJ State Crossing Guard Trainer, Drug Evaluation and Classification Expert, Police Training Commission Certified Instructor. He will be assigned as a supervisor in the Patrol Division.

Patrolman Ricerca is currently a volunteer for both the Mountainside and Westfield Rescue Squads. She is a certified Emergency Medical Technician, an Emergency Medical Dispatcher, and 911 Basic-Telecommunicator certified. Ms. Ricerca is currently enrolled as a full-time student at Kean University majoring in Communications with a minor in Criminal Justice. She anticipates graduating in December of 2021. Ms. Ricerca has been employed as a Communications Officer with the Cranford Police Department since July of 2021 before her appointment as a probationary patrolman.

Patrolman Giannico was enlisted in the Air Force, assigned as a KC-135 Crew Chief at McConnell AFB, Kansas. He was also deployed to the Kandahar and Bagram region of Afghanistan, supervising a crew of three. He served in the Air Force until August 2020 when he received an honorable discharge. He earned numerous commendations and medals while in the Air Force including: the Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, NATO Defense Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terror, Air Force Longevity, and Expeditionary Service Ribbon. Prior to joining the Cranford Police Department, Anthony was employed by the Sea Girt Police Department as a Class II SLEO after graduating from the Monmouth County Police Academy.

Patrolman Duffy is a 2015 Graduate of Cranford High School and a life-long resident of Cranford. While in High School, Liam was a four- year student athlete all while maintaining high academic standards. Patrolman Duffy holds an Associate of Arts Degree in Business Administration from the County College of Morris and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Ramapo College. A leader among his peers, while at Ramapo College Mr. Duffy was the captain of the college's baseball team. In January, he and Patrolmen Ricerca will enter the John H. Stamler Police Academy as members of the 126th Recruit Class.

Chief Greco also recognized the promotion of Eugene Perrotta to Lieutenant. Lt. Eugene Perrotta is a resident of Cranford, and a 1995 graduate of Arthur L. Johnson High School.

Upon graduating from high Lt. Perrotta attended Drew University where in 1999 he received a Bachelor of Science degree in History. Continuing his education, Lt. Perrotta pursued his Juris Doctorate Degree from Rutgers School of Law and was admitted to the bar in 2002. In 2006 Lt. Perrotta pivoted in career choices and attended the John H. Stamler Police Academy as an Alternate Route candidate, being chosen by his recruit class to serve as class president. Aside from his day-to-day duties, Lt. Perrotta serves in the arduous task of Accreditation Manager - ensuring the continued reaccreditation by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police. Additionally, he has worked in conjunction with the Union County Prosecutor's Office as the departments Humane Law Enforcement Officer and Domestic Violence Liaison. He will become a Watch Commander in the Patrol Division.



(above) Ptl. Anthony Giannico and his wife



(above) Sgt. Shayne Temple and Family



(above) Ptl. Liam Duffy and Family



(above) Ptl. *Gianna Ricerca*

Photos by Cranford Police Department

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A CHORUS LINE COMING TO CDC THEATRE IN CRANFORD

Come be part of Broadway's most legendary musical audition. After having been postponed from its 101st season, A Chorus Line will run at CDC Theatre in Cranford from March 11 through March 26, 2022. This stunning concept musical captures the spirit and tension of a Broadway chorus audition and explores the inner lives and

bittersweet ambitions of professional Broadway performers. Winner of nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, the show features one powerhouse number after another. Michael Kidney leads the talented cast as director and choreographer. Visit cdctheatre.org for ticketing information.



(above) Cast of A Chorus Line. Visit cdctheatre.org for ticketing information.

AUDITIONS FOR A BRONX TALE

CDC Theatre in Cranford

Auditions for A Bronx Tale will take place at CDC Theatre, 78 Winans Ave., Cranford, NJ on March 14, at 7 p.m. for young Calogero only; and March 15 and 16 at 7 p.m. for all other roles. Callbacks will be on Tuesday, March 22 at 6 p.m. by invitation only.

Please bring a headshot and resume stapled together and provide proof of vaccination. Prepare a 32-bar cut of a contemporary Broadway song; sides will be provided.

Based on the critically acclaimed play that inspired the now classic film, this streetwise musical will take you to the stoops of the Bronx in the 1960s—where a young man is caught

between the father he loves and the mob boss he'd love to be. Featuring a book by Academy Award nominee Chazz Palminteri, music by Oscar, Grammy, and Tony Award winner Alan Menken, and lyrics by Grammy Award winner and Oscar and Tony Award nominee Glenn Slater, A Bronx Tale is a story about respect, loyalty, love, and above all else: family.

Rehearsals will take place at CDC, in the evenings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, starting April 5th. Performances are June 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 at 8pm, and June 19th at 2 p.m. Additional information can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org.

CDC THEATRE PRESENTS

A CHORUS LINE

A CHORUS LINE

A CHORUS LINE

Conceived & Originally Directed & Choreographed by Michael Bennett
Book by James Kirkwood and Nicholas Dante
Music by Marvin Hamlisch
Lyrics by Edward Kleban
Co-Choreographed by Bob Avian

March 11-26 Fri/Sat-8pm
March 20-Sun-2pm

Tickets/Info
cdctheatre.org

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• Email
John McKeary: jmckeary@verizon.net
Jim Byrnes: jbyrnes17@comcast.net

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCILS JOIN FORCES

The Cranford and Garwood Knights of Columbus Councils joined forces and held a Football Championship fundraiser at the Columbian Club of Garwood Hall in Garwood on Sunday, January 30th. This worthy event was a tremendous success with over 100 guests attending, and by working together, the Councils were able to raise over \$5,000 for our two worthy designated charities. Donations will be made to the Anne Salway Dolan Memorial Scholarship and to Cranford Brother Knight Bob Scheurer and his family to help with Bob's courageous battle against Cancer.

There are too many people to thank here with both Councils as this event was put together with only two weeks of prior planning. Based on the success of this event, both Councils will be doing some more events like this, and are in the process of planning another one on April 2nd for the

NCAA Final Four Championship games to help and support another worthy cause. Save the date and see below for contact information.

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 being 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 website at cranfordknights.org.

Garwood residents who would like to join the Garwood council can either inquire at the club at 37 South Ave or visit <https://garwoodkofc.weebly.com/become-a-member.html>.



(above) PGK & Lecturer John Doolan, Worthy Consultant Jim Byrnes, PGK & District Deputy Jim Vari, Garwood Columbian Hall Chairman Aaron Dolan, Grand Knight Jerry Conheeney, Bill Doolan, and Worthy Chaplain Monsignor Tim Shugrue.

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LIBRARY MARCH PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

224 Walnut Ave, Cranford, NJ 07016

Phone: (908) 709-7272

<http://www.cranfordlibrary.org/>

Monday - Thursday: 10 AM - 9 PM;

Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM;

Saturday: 10 AM - 2 PM; Sunday: Closed

Grab and Go Kits for Children

Starting Saturday, March 5

The Cranford Public Library will be providing an assortment of Grab and Go Kits for children in March and April. Kits are available starting at 10:00 on Saturday mornings. March 5: Paper Bag Princess Day; March 12: Cupcake Liner Lion; March 19: Cotton Ball Sheep; April 2: Coffee Filter Flower; April 23: Paper Butterfly.

Grab and Go kits will be available on a first come, first served basis in the Library's contactless pickup area, while supplies last.

Please limit to one kit per child.

Cranford residents can also bring home a jar of cookie mix and whip up a batch of butterscotch chip cookies! Kits are available on a first come, first served basis at the Children's Desk, while supplies last. Jars contain all necessary dry ingredients; you'll need to add wet ingredients.

Celebrate Women's History Month

Thursday, March 10 from 5 - 6 p.m.

Calling all fans of the Who Was series!

Celebrate Women's History Month by learning about some famous women. Children in grades 2-5 are invited to join us virtually. Visit the Children's Desk to register and check out your book pick.

Early Readers Book Club

Wednesday, March 30 at 6 p.m.

April meeting is scheduled for

Wednesday, April 13 at 6 p.m.

Emerging readers in grades K-2 are invited to join our Early Readers Book Club. We will be reading *Hi, Jack* by Mac Barnett and Greg Pizzoli and completing some fun activities. Club meets virtually. Reserve a spot online:

[eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

New Jersey Makers Day

Saturday, March 26; 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

This year is going to be better than ever, thanks to a NJMD mini-grant, Breadsmith, and the support of the Friends of the Library. Children and families can join us in the Community Center to test out a variety of Maker Stations. Drop in to test coding robots, create a DIY water filtration system, and make art using recycled materials. For children ages 5+ and their families.

New Jersey Makers Day Virtual Reality

Saturday, March 26; at 2 p.m.

Adults and teens can join us in person for a New Jersey Makers Day Virtual Reality program at 2 p.m. Meet a local game designer who has created a VR app that allows you to pay classical music with a wave of your wand and demo the app yourself on the Library's new Oculus! Registration for this portion of the day is required: <https://bit.ly/3rOcrSm>

NJ MAKERS DAY 2022 –MARCH, 26

Cranford Public Library

Join us on Saturday, March, 26 2022, at the Cranford Community Center for the eighth annual NJ Makers Day. Cranford Public Library is thrilled to have been awarded a New Jersey Makers Day mini grant this year to help fund our event!

NJ Makers Day is a statewide event that introduces, celebrates, and promotes maker culture, as well as the values associated with making, tinkering, and STEM-based learning. The last New Jersey Makers Day drew over 83,000 individual attendees to more than 300 participating sites across 20 counties in the state. Participating locations included schools, colleges and universities, libraries, museums, and other educational organizations.

Makerspaces across the state are having a significant impact on education and job skills development by providing access to people, information, resources, and tools that facilitate making to a wide variety of skill levels. New Jersey Makers Day allows communities to share hands-on programming opportunities, demonstrations, and displays, as well as the expertise of the individuals and organizations that make, create, and develop right in their own backyards.

The Cranford Public Library NJ Makers Day schedule:

10 a.m.-12 p.m. Stop by our maker stations to test out coding robots, create a DIY water filtration system, and make art using recycled materials! This portion is geared towards children ages 5-11, but all are welcome.

Then at 2 p.m., join us in the theatre for a virtual reality demonstration led by a local designer who created a virtual reality app that allows users to play classical music with a wave of a wand. Registration for this portion of our NJ Makers Day program is required and can be done online: <https://bit.ly/3rOcrSm>

When here, remember to pick up your sourdough bread starter kits prepared by Breadsmith, while supplies last. You will also have a chance to win a Breadsmith gift card at our virtual reality program.

This free program is made possible by the support of New Jersey Makers Day, the Friends of the Library, and Breadsmith. For more information please visit the calendar page on the Cranford Public Library website cranfordlibrary.org or call 908-709-7272. Find out more about New Jersey Makers Day at njmakersday.org.

FUNDRAISER FOR CRANFORD FIREFIGHTER

Knights of Columbus of Garwood and Cranford

The Final Four Charity Fundraiser to support Cranford Firefighter Robert Hurewitz, whose career was cut short by physical injuries sustained on the job, will take place on Saturday, April 2 from 6:00 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Columbian Club of Garwood at 37 South Ave., in Garwood. Tickets are \$35 per person and include beer, wine, soda, and food.

Hurewitz suffered heart and kidney damage in the line of duty last year. The effects have been

lasting and deleterious. Proceeds from the April 2 fundraiser will be donated to his family.

Please help this family of three by participating in the April 2 event or by donating directly to the GoFundMe campaign started by Hurewitz's wife Amanda: [GoFundMe/e460a236](https://www.gofundme.com/e460a236). You can also mail a donation check made payable to the Cranford Knights of Columbus, PO Box 501, Cranford NJ 0701 – write in the check note: For Hurewitz Family.



(above) Help raise funds on April 2 for Firefighter Robert Hurewitz whose injuries sustained in the line of duty prevent him from working.

CPD RECEIVES TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARD

CRANFORD MONTHLY • Page 15 • March 2022

Cranford Police Department

AAA Northeast announced that the Cranford Police Department won a GOLD Award in the 2021 AAA Community Traffic Safety Awards Program for its efforts in creating safer traffic environments for all roadway users in its jurisdiction. Due to COVID, a traditional award luncheon was not held in 2021, but AAA Public Affairs Manager, Shani Jarvis, visited the Cranford Police Department on December 21, 2021 to personally deliver the award.

Earlier in 2021, the Cranford Police Department announced a speed management campaign that consisted of increased enforcement, heightened visibility during traffic enforcement, and the distribution of community-signage imploring residents and visitors to slow

down in Cranford.

Over 250 signs that read "Please Slow Down In Our Town" have been deployed throughout the township in an effort to remind motorists to obey speed limitations. To complement that effort, the Cranford Police Department Patrol Division and Traffic Bureau began a comprehensive speed management campaign aimed at stopping speeders, raising awareness, and curbing undesirable driving behavior in areas of high crash data, increased resident complaints, and speed studies conducted by the department.

Over the past two years, the Cranford Police Department have upgraded over 25 pedestrian crossing signs to include the rectangular rapid flashing beacons, or RRFB's, to enhance pedestrian crossing awareness.



(above, l-r) Captain Edward Davenport, Detective James Knight, AAA Public Affairs Manager Shani Jarvis, Sergeant Shayne Temple, Chief Ryan Greco, and Captain Guy Patterson.



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FLINTLOCKS CELEBRATE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MEMBER

Dr. D. Michael Hart

Not many centenarians get to celebrate their 100th birthday surrounded by friends. On Thursday, February 17, the Flintlocks celebrated Fanwood resident Joe Schott's 100th birthday. Joe has been active in this volunteer group for 33 years since retiring from Bells Labs. He recruited many of his friends to join, and even a few relatives. Joe has a wry sense of humor, so they presented him with a parking plaque which reads: "Reserved Parking Only for Flintlocks Over 100 Years Old."

The Flintlocks are a group of retired scouts who devote every Thursday all year round to helping the Scout Camps. They build cabins,

make picnic tables, paint the dining hall, do maintenance and build craft kits for the Scout shops. The Flintlocks represent a wide range of skills, including: two electricians, a millwright, carpenters, plumbers, diesel mechanics, police officers, heavy equipment operators, but also many professionals such as a dentist, two college professors, computer experts, financial advisors, salesmen, etc.

The most popular craft kits sold at the Cedar Knolls and Mountainside Scout Shops are the bird houses, bird feeders, benches and handy boxes. The men also volunteer at many of the Patriot Path Council activities for the scouts. Since they are a 501c3, they do not need to pay

sales tax, and they provide skilled labor for free. The Council has 3 camps and the volunteers are important to keep things running smoothly. Many of the scouts had children or have grandchildren in the scouts. More than half of the volunteers have been awarded the Silver Beaver Award, which is the highest National Honor offered by the Boy Scouts of America. They are an outstanding group of volunteers.

The Flintlocks meet every Thursday from 8 am to 2 pm at Camp Winnebago in Rockaway. Guests are always welcome. For information, contact Secretary Dr. D. Michael Hart by email drmhart@yahoo.com.



(above) Joe Schott seated to the immediate right of the parking sign, behind the cake, in a flannel shirt; celebrating his 100th birthday with his 24 Flintlock friends around him.

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SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS SOUGHT

The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield (JLEP) is pleased to announce that this year we will award five \$2,000 scholarships to college-bound women who reside in Union County and demonstrate a passion for volunteerism.

The JLEP believes that volunteerism is a vital force in our community, and we support young women who share our passion by awarding scholarships to college-bound high school seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to volunteer activities.

Applicants are asked to complete the application form, write a 300-to-400-word essay about their volunteer experiences, and provide two letters of recommendation. The application form is available on our website, jlepnj.org, by an email request to office@jlepnj.org, or by leaving a message with your address and/or email

address at 908-709-1177.

The submission deadline is April 1, 2022. There will be a formal presentation of the scholarships to the recipients at the JLEP's Annual Dinner on May 18, 2022.

To find out more about the League's scholarship program please contact the League at 908-709-1177, via email at scholarship@jlepnj.org, or visit our website at jlepnj.org.

The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield has a rich tradition of community service dating back more than 93 years and we would love for you to consider adding to our story. We are women building better communities. For more information please contact: Kalshelia Llyod, President, at (908)709-1177 or email her at president@jlepnj.org.

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Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield

Twelve members of the Community Projects Committee of Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield recently met at the First Baptist Church of Westfield, where Mobile Meals originates, and made 60 small floral arrangements to accompany the meals delivered that day. The club supplies the flowers and prepares the arrangements in laundry detergent caps. These cheerful multicolored floral arrangements were decorated with red and pink paper hearts. The club preforms this service in

spring, fall and winter and is much appreciated by the clients who look forward to receiving these colorful arrangements. The event was coordinated by Kris Luka and Mary Foley Smith.

Mobile Meals is a voluntary, non-profit program that provides home-delivered meals to those who are unable to shop and prepare their own meals on either a temporary or permanent basis. It is available to residents of Westfield and surrounding communities including Mountainside, Fanwood, Scotch Plains, Clark,

and Cranford. For more information, call (908) 233-6146.

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club is affiliated with the Garden Club of New Jersey and National Garden Clubs, Inc. The Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 p.m. at the Scotch Hills Country Club. Membership is open to residents of Westfield and surrounding towns. For more information, call Sharon Shiraga at (908) 228 2865 or visit rakeandhoe.org or the Club's Facebook page.



(above) Rake and Hoe Garden Club members with their floral creations for Mobile Meals clients (front row l-r): Kris Luka, Margot Partridge, Lena Peitsinovski, Jeanie Pelikan, and Betty Gulino; (back row l-r): Karen Jolley-Gates, Clare Minick, Beth Siano, Mary Foley Smith, Richard Pelikan, Maryfran Annese, and Mary Lou Nolas. Photos by Rake and Hoe Garden Club



(above) Sample floral arrangements crafted by Rake and Hoe Garden Club members for Mobile Meals clients.

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Ronald Vigliano has proven himself as a valuable employee with nearly 22 years of experience working at ShopRite. He prepares orders, delivers them to customers, and processes returns at the bustling store.

Tonya Hopson enjoys her job at Target and has worked at the store for 18 years, stocking and organizing in different departments and preparing drinks at Starbucks.

Vigliano and Hopson are two of thousands of people with developmental disabilities who have unique skills and a desire to work in the United States. Yet across all age groups, people with disabilities are much less likely to be employed than people with no disabilities.

The 2018 American Community Survey found that only 36% of people with disabilities were employed, compared to 77% of the total population. Further, according to a 2019 Census Bureau report, workers with disabilities earn only two-thirds as much as the average worker without a disability. Workers with disabilities have also been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, making this a critical time for inclusive hiring practices in American economic recovery.

"If they have the ability to do the work, they should be allowed to have a job," Vigliano said. "Why not?"

Vigliano's boss, Store Manager Frank Juba, said the store welcomes employees with different abilities and works to accommodate them.

"We're flexible, and a gentleman like Ron is fully capable," Juba said. "We find a position that suits their abilities."

Vigliano and Hopson receive job coaching support from Community Access Unlimited (CAU). Every week, Deirdre McCray visits them at work to provide supervision and assistance with any work-related tasks that they need, such as, learning how to use a register or taking a training test. People with disabilities that are seeking assistance in their job search, job readiness training, or businesses looking to hire people with disabilities in New Jersey, can contact CAU. CAU is an Elizabeth-based nonprofit that seeks to integrate individuals into the community through comprehensive ways.

"The people I work with know their jobs," McCray said. She added that she helps members stay on task and follow any business procedures and rules, as well as may pitch in physically depending on the member's needs.

The extensive benefits of hiring people with different abilities are becoming well-documented. A 2018 study by Accenture, in partnership with the American Association of People with Disabilities as well as Disability:IN, reports that businesses that actively seek to employ people with disabilities outperform businesses that do not. Their revenues were 28% higher, net income was two times more, and profit margins were 30% higher. Additionally, workers with disabilities have high employee retention rates, high reliability, and a positive effect on employee motivation.

Vigliano and Hopson said that working is an

important part of their lives. They feel productive during the day, get out of the house, and most importantly, earn an income that helps pay their bills and other expenses.

"I like to be out of the house and the activity — I like to be working," Vigliano said.

Hopson said she loves the people she works with and appreciates that the store hires people with different abilities.

"There's someone at my job who is deaf, but she works great," Hopson said. "They're equal at my job and there's no prejudice or anything."

After paying bills, Hopson said her favorite way to spend her money is to take care of her dog, Lexie. For Vigliano, it's important to have extra funds to buy his favorite foods.

"We work to find the right jobs for people with different abilities, and we want businesses to see the opportunity and benefits of hiring them," said Sandra Lynch, Managing Assistant Executive

Director of Supported Employment and Vocational Programs.

ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED:

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), who is celebrating 42 years in 2021, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU provides support and gives voices to adults and the youth who traditionally have little support and no voice in society. CAU helps people with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization, and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making, and civil rights. CAU currently serves more than 3,000 individuals and families, with the number growing each year. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908-354-3040, online at caunj.org, or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ, 07202.



(above) Tonya Hopson at home with her dog Lexie



(above) Ronald Vigliano delivers an order at ShopRite

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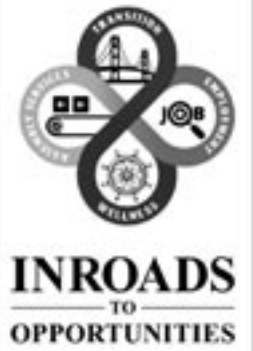
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MEET FERNANDO PORRAS OF CLARK

By Jahi McDonald, CASA of Union County

By the time this goes to press, my three-month internship will have ended. What will endure, is getting to know and work alongside my fellow intern Fernando Porras. In addition to stepping up to serve as an intern a year ago — and working some 20+ hours a week since in that capacity — he is an active CASA volunteer, well into his second case as a child advocate.

From processing donor thank yous, navigating excel spreadsheets, seeking community involvement amid a virtual fundraising campaign, to shooting videos for social media, sorting and hauling holiday wish list toys, and even donning superhero costumes for Adoption Day, Fernando has been a patient, committed role model for CASA's critical work. His mantra, "Anything for the kids," is one I've heard him say countless times but seen him put into action even more.

While being an advocate and yearlong intern is plenty for a CASA of Union County highlight, it's his personal journey, and all he's made of it, that shines even brighter. After his first CASA case — a 13-year-old boy — closed, he immediately began his current case, advocating for 5- and 10-year-old brothers. His visits, he says, often include intense Beyblades battles. "I remember playing with Beyblades at that age, so it's even more memorable to bond over something I'm familiar with. Also, superheroes! Maybe I'm still a kid at heart," he quips, adding, "As an advocate, you read about their life in stacks of paperwork, but being able to spend time with them as they enjoy the little things? It gives me such a different perspective on life." When he sees their smiles, he says, he's overcome with joy.

And joy is something — like every CASA youth — that Fernando deserves. In April 2018, a month before his college graduation, he was diagnosed with leukemia. He says, "Though I was told the diagnosis was just a matter of 'bad luck' ... my life turned upside down." Sparing the details of hospitalizations, procedures and finishing the tail-end of college amid unknowns and medical crises, let's take Fernando's lead and focus on the positive: August marked three years in remission. Continued monitoring from his medical team as well as navigating other lifelong health challenges resulting from the very treatments that saved his life are now his norm.

Fernando continues, "In summer 2019, I started trying to piece my life back together. I was discussing the future with a hospital social worker and she told me CASA would be a perfect fit. I'm so glad I took her words to heart; I did my research, went to an information session, and the rest is history."

In addition to advocating for three youth, the 25-year-old cancer survivor used the yearlong intern assignment as a sabbatical of sorts, undergoing an intensive and thorough LSAT study period and he's now amid the nerve-racking law school admissions process. I asked him how he juggles it all, when each ball carries great weight: "I've always been a 'yes' person. If something needs to be done, I'll do it. Some may not see that as a positive as I do ... but there's



(above) Fernando Porras

always time to do more."

In addition to enduring love and respect for his close-knit family, Fernando's fondness for travel also keeps him on his toes. Before he embeds himself in a law school lecture hall, there are plans to travel as much as possible, amid Covid-restraints and minding his health, of course. He recently visited family in Ecuador and soon will share his unwavering support for his beloved Atletico de Madrid soccer team with a jaunt to Spain.

When life was suddenly outside his firm grasp, Fernando reached wider and gripped harder, there's no question. Still, he's always sure to make time for the betterment of others' lives. He fondly quotes an uncle, "Never say you 'can't' do something, because what it really means is that you 'won't.' It's stuck with me and allowed me to work outside my comfort zone ... comfortably."

While experiences make you who you are —

and in Fernando's case that certainly proves true —he also reminds me that people make those experiences. For us at CASA, that's Fernando. For Fernando, that's his family, including grandparents who modeled resiliency and hard work, lessons for which he is grateful. When, during the last weeks of his internship, Fernando unexpectedly lost his beloved grandfather, colleagues at services saw firsthand his tightly woven net that is family, and that his commitment to life and bettering it comes from a deep well of connection, generations old.

Asked to look back on recent years, when best-laid plans didn't happen and an unexpected diagnosis did, he offers: "I truly think everything happens for a reason. I'll always have an endless number of unanswered questions — but at the same time, I'll always be grateful that I found CASA of Union County."

In addition to serving as a fall marketing intern for CASA of Union County, Jahi McDonald is a 2020 graduate of Rutgers University-New Brunswick, with plans to begin a career in public relations and marketing.

ABOUT CASA OF UNION COUNTY

Volunteers with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County serve as extra eyes and ears for family law judges hearing cases involving the county's abused, neglected or abandoned children removed from home and placed in foster care.

CASA volunteers have court-ordered access to all parties in a foster child's life, including foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, and incorporate into court reports findings from these contacts as well as from their own time spent with the youth. Advocates ensure a youth's needs are met and their time in care is as short as possible.

It is CASA of Union County's goal that every Union County foster child have an advocate, yet half of the more than 500 such youth still await one. Could you be their voice? Contact Lucia to learn more lfield@casaoofunioncounty.org or visit casaoofunioncounty.org.

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VIGIL AGAINST HATRED, TERRORISM DRAWS COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim

A vigil held on February 6 at Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim reflected on the acts of hate against a synagogue in Colleyville, Texas and affirmed Cranford's inclusive culture.

"Never forget. Never again. But it happens again and again and again and again. It is time for all of us to stand up and scream, 'enough is enough!' All of us—Jews, Christians, Muslims, atheists. Enough is enough." These powerful words were spoken by Bruce Solomon, co-president of Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim (TBEMC).

A crowd of approximately 125 people gathered and heard remarks from members of the Cranford Clergy Council, Cranford Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty, and a statement written by Cranford's Superintendent of Schools. The vigil was attended by the Cranford Chief of Police and other police officers, as well as members of the Cranford Fire Department and Township Committee.

"I realized that Cranford is very much like Colleyville," said Rabbi Paul Kerbel, TBEMC's spiritual leader and vigil organizer. "I have a close relationship with my fellow clergy who are here today. We care about Cranford and we care about our community. We have different beliefs and likely different political opinions. But we believe in pluralism, equity, and diversity."

In Texas on January 15, Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker welcomed what appeared to be a homeless man into the synagogue, preparing a cup of tea for him. He leaned on the hospitality taught through biblical tradition: welcome the stranger. But as the Shabbat morning services began, the man cocked his gun and held the rabbi and four congregants hostage for 11 hours.

While the hostages in Colleyville made it out alive, recent history shows this is not always the case. Jewish institutions in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, California, and many other places have experienced terrorism due to their religion, sometimes resulting in death.

"To our Jewish neighbors, community members, family members: we see you. We hear you," said Reverend Cameron Overbey of the Cranford United Methodist Church, and chairman of the Cranford Clergy Council. "We recommit to making our community one in which ... you do not have to live in fear simply because of your religion or your culture."

The gathering included neighbors, friends and TBEMC congregants in true community spirit. "We know that silence and a blind eye means that hatred and the haters win," said Mayor Prunty.



(above) Rabbi Paul Kerbel addresses a crowd of about 125 Cranford neighbors, at TBEMC's vigil against hatred and terrorism.

Photo by TBEMC



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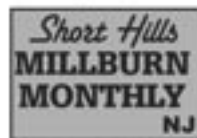
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2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900	\$1000
4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700	\$1900
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000	\$2200
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400	\$2700
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700	\$3000
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000	\$3400
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NJ Department of Agriculture

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Citizens are advised to destroy the Spotted Lanternfly in all its forms.

SLF is a serious invasive pest with a healthy appetite for our plants and it can be a significant nuisance, affecting the quality of life and enjoyment of the outdoors. The spotted lanternfly uses its piercing-sucking mouthpart to feed on sap from over 70 different plant species. It has a strong preference for economically important plants and the feeding damage significantly stresses the plants which can lead to decreased health and potentially death.

As SLF feeds, the insect excretes honeydew (a sugary substance) which can attract bees, wasps, and other insects. The honeydew also builds up and promotes the growth for sooty mold (fungi), which can cover the plant, forest understories, patio furniture, cars, and anything else found below SLF feeding.



(above) The weather is warming up, check your trees for Spotted Lanternfly egg masses. When you find them crush them. Use an old bank card, small rolling pin or putty knife.

RENNA MEDIA LAUNCHES THREE NEW NEWSPAPERS

Beginning in March three new towns have joined Renna Media's growing family of newspapers: Florham Park Press, Millburn Short Hills Monthly, and Elmora Hills Elizabeth. Renna Media is now mailing 160,000, town-specific newspapers, to 24 towns each month.

The newspapers' goal is to be a positive influence on the economic development and overall well-being of the town. Our publications exist to share community service news and the good things that are happening in the community.

Renna Media is a Cranford, NJ based business owned and operated by husband and wife team of Joe and Tina Renna. Renna Media's family of 24 community newspapers are published in Morris, Essex, Union and Somerset counties, with a total circulation of 160,000. The publications are "hyperlocal" in nature in that they contain information focused on each individual town, and are direct mailed within those towns.

The concept of being hyper-local is to give local businesses a venue to promote services. Reaching local customers gives you the highest return for your advertising dollars. The newspapers are designed (black ink on newsprint) to keep the cost of an advertisement to as low as \$60. Regional businesses can take advantage of one low rate for advertising in multiple towns.

Renna Media also prints full-color flyers that get mailed along with the newspapers. A cost effective alternative to mailing postcards.

For more information about Renna Media publications, please visit rennamedia.com.

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(above) Joe and Tina Renna, owners of Renna Media, LLC, publish 24 direct-mailed community newspapers with a total circulation of 160,000. They have been publishing community newspapers since 1998. For more information, please visit rennamedia.com.

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