

CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ

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NATIONAL WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD CELEBRATION

Calvary Nursery School & Child Care (CNSCC) recently welcomed children and families from Helen K. Baldwin Nursery School and St. Michael's Early Childhood Program to Holly Street for a return of their annual Block Party & Ice Cream Social in celebration of the "Week of the Young Child." As part of the national celebrations held across the country, organized by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC.), these three programs from Cranford's early childhood community, came together with their Township Police and Fire Departments, to honor young children and all those who make a difference in children's lives.

"Experts tell us that 90% of all brain development occurs by the age of five. The experiences our young children encounter during this time shapes their future learning and development," said Stacy Nick, Director of CNSCC. "This fun event is a great way to recognize the importance of early learning for all young children and to bring Cranford together to recognize those that dedicate their lives to working with them."

Cranford's Mayor Kathleen Prunty commented, "This year more than ever, the importance of early childhood programs for both children and their families has come to the forefront and I'm proud to join our community in saluting those who care and educate our youngest learners here today."

Young children and their families depend on high-quality education and care, which help children get a great start, and bring lasting benefits to the community. The Week of the Young Child is a time to recognize the importance of early learning and early literacy, and to celebrate the teachers and policies that bring early childhood education to young children.



Courtesy photos





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MEMORIAL DAY PARADE GRAND MARSHALL

Cranford VFW Post #335 has announced that Marine Corp veteran Braulio Lirenzo has been chosen to be this year's Cranford Memorial Day Parade Grand Marshall. The annual event which will be held on Monday, May 30th, will be a full parade, unlike last year's limited one, and the 2020 parade which was cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

Lirenzo, a veteran of the Iraq war, served on the Iraq/Kuwait border at the height of the conflict in 2003. He was a Staff Sergeant and Security Chief for the 2nd Maintenance Battalion there. Currently an active Life Member of the VFW Post in Cranford, Lirenzo is the captain and "drill instructor" for the Cranford VFW's Color Guard which, thanks to his arduous tutelage, has established itself as one of the top color guards in the State of New Jersey. He has led the Color Guard in presenting the Colors at all Cranford High School home football games over the last few years, and even led the Guard when the Cranford team played at the Giants MetLife Stadium in the Group Three Championships last fall.

Veteran Lirenzo, a first generation American, currently resides in New Providence with his wife, Jomara and their eleven-year-old daughter Natalia. He is employed as a program manager for the AMA Group of Madison, NJ.



(above) Marine Corp veteran Braulio Lirenzo has been chosen to be this year's Cranford Memorial Day Parade Grand Marshall

Courtesy photo

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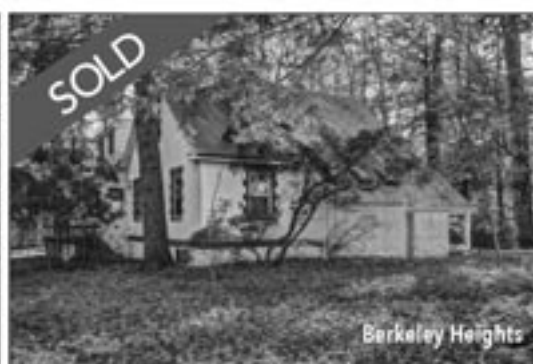


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TINA HELMSTETTER VOLUNTEERISM HONORED

Cranford resident Tina Helmstetter was recently presented with the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Union County Wesley Philo Award. The award is named in honor of the group's first president. It is presented annually to a Master Gardener who exemplifies excellence in volunteerism.

Tina has shared her extraordinary talents with the Master Gardener program in many ways. Tina served on the MG Executive Board, in the position of 3rd Vice President, for two terms (2014-2017). Tina demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment to her responsibilities on the Board. She has been an Advisor to the incoming MG class and was noted for her skills as a floral designer and organizer.

Tina's contribution of overseeing the MG Continuing Education Program over the past years, has resulted in well-attended and received educational programs which have given the Master Gardeners the opportunity to earn their annual CEU credits as well as community and family members who have attended the opportunity to enhance their knowledge in various aspects of gardening.

Her connections in the horticulture industry made the meetings wonderful, educational experiences. When the meetings had to switch to a virtual format, Tina brought in excellent speakers so that the monthly meeting program could continue to be offered during the pandemic.

Tina is also a 4-H Master Gardener Tree Steward and is active in the Emerald Ash Borer Survey of the Union County Parks. She also participated in the Berkeley Heights Street Tree Survey and was actively involved in the Cranford Beautification Project with regard to saving a historic tree located in Cranford.

Tina is employed at the Great Swamp Nursery and uses her Master Gardner expertise at work. Tina is also an active member of the Cranford Environmental Commission.



(above) Tina Helmstetter was recently presented with the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Union County Wesley Philo Award. It is presented annually to a Master Gardener who exemplifies excellence in volunteerism.

GARAGE SALE/PLANT SALE FUNDRAISER – MAY 7

Floraphile Garden Club of Cranford

With Mother's Day fast approaching, wouldn't it be great to find mom, grandma, auntie, all the ladies on the list, a special, one-of-a-kind gift and support a good cause?! Well you can, on Saturday, May 7th from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., the Floraphile Garden Club of Cranford will be hosting their Garage Sale/Plant Sale Fundraiser at 469 Brookside Ct. in Cranford. The Floraphiles have created special succulent planters for the occasion! Come on out to find a great selection of plants, vintage jewelry, household goods, clothes, toys and much more! This a rain or shine event. Proceeds from this fundraiser support the Floraphile Garden Club and their involvement in numerous community service projects.

Founded in 1950, the Floraphile Garden Club has been an active and integral part of the

Cranford community for over 70 years. We have members of all ages and gardening abilities. Community service is one of the core tenets of the group. Besides giving back to the First Aid Squad, members participate in the yearly clean-up and beautification of Girl Scout Park, Orange Ave. Pool and the Cranford Community Center. The Floraphiles have also offered horticultural therapy programs and have started hosting garden workshops for seniors and now youth programs through Cranford's Recreation & Parks Department. Members participate in many exciting workshops, informative presentations, charitable projects and garden tours. If you are interested in learning more about the Floraphile Garden Club, please like us on Facebook or Instagram.

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POLICE, FIRE, EMS SUCCESSFULLY RESUSCITATE RESIDENT

Cranford Police Department

A medical call turned into a successful CPR life save after Cranford Police, Fire and Fire EMS responded to an Orchard Street home on April 1, 2022.

At approximately 0847 hours, Officers Daniel Donnerstag and Joshua Sousa were dispatched to an Orchard Street address on the report of a 53-year-old male experiencing chest pains. Upon arrival, Officer Donnerstag, a certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and American Heart Association CPR Instructor, recognized that the patient was taking agonal gasps. Officers Donnerstag and Sousa immediately began to rescue breathe for the victim using a bag-valve mask. At this time, Officer Nelson Hearn Jr. arrived on scene and assisted in the effort. During this rescue effort, the patient lost consciousness and lost his pulse. It is at this point that the Cranford Police units were joined by Cranford Fire Department Emergency Medical Technicians Kornberger and Literate as well as Fire Inspector Petchow, Firefighter Polito and Firefighter Kniazuk.

Officer Hearn utilized his Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to determine if the patient had a “shockable rhythm”. The AED indicated that a “shock was advised” and subsequently one shock was administered by Officer Hearn. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) was immediately started by the team of police officers, firefighters and EMTs. After the team performed multiple cycles of CPR, the victim

suddenly gasped for air and became conscious. Paramedics from Robert Wood Johnson at Rahway Hospital arrived on scene and continued treatment of the patient. At this point, the patient was fully alert and holding a conversation with medical personnel. He was transported by Cranford Fire Department’s EMS to Newark Beth-Israel Hospital.

According to the American Heart Association, more than 475,000 Americans die each year from

cardiac arrest – with many of those medical events occurring outside of the hospital environment. CPR in conjunction with the successful deployment of an AED can double or triple a patient’s survival rate in these settings.

Chief Greco praised the efforts of all first responders involved in this rescue effort. “First responders using their training and experience and acting as a team led to the successful saving of a Cranford resident’s life,” Chief Greco said.



(above, l-r) Officers Hearn, Sousa and Donnerstag, CPD; EMTs Kornberger and Literate, CFD/EMS; F/F Kniazuk, F/F Polito and F/I Petchow, CFD/Engine 2.

Courtesy photo

Erica Schultz
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"A BRONX TALE" COMING TO CDC THEATRE

The musical "A Bronx Tale", the final show in CDC Theatre's 103rd season, is in rehearsal and getting ready to open June 10.

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.

Director Sean Lough describes the show as "taking place on the streets in the 1960s, with all the pop styles of the time: Doo-wop, Frank Sinatra-style ballads, R&B and Motown.

Even though it's set in The Bronx, it's a very New Jersey show. The musical started at the Paper Mill Playhouse then moved to Broadway. We're honored to be the first NJ community theatre group to get to perform it after the smash Broadway run."

The show will run June 10-25, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee on June 19th. Tickets can be purchased by visiting cdctheatre.org. Made possible by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

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The Musical

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 Book by **Chazz Palminteri** Lyrics by **Glenn Slater**

June 10-25 Fri/Sat 8pm
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If Knee Surgery Sounds Scary, It Should

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

- Surgery is costly, regardless of the percentage of services covered by insurance.
- Surgery requires lost time from work and typically requires a regimen of rehabilitation and medications.
- With surgery, there is always a risk for unwelcomed complications. And you could be back to where you started, or worse.
- Medications will be required for relief from surgery and you have been down that road before. 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.
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 - Patricia G.

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 - Quenton L.

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CENTENNIAL VILLAGE ANNUAL 5K RACE - JUNE 5

The Centennial Village Group's annual 5k race will take place this year on Sunday, June 5. The chip-timed race will start at 9 a.m. The route provides a flat tour of part of Cranford's South Side, starting at Lincoln School on Centennial Avenue, and looping through Centennial Village and Mohawk Park. This family-friendly race invites all ages to come out and enjoy the views of Centennial Village. Family and friends are encouraged to cheer on the runners along the route.

The top three male and female runners overall will receive a prize and medals, and awards will be given to the top three males and females in the following age groups: 14 & under, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60 and above.

Visit racenj.com to sign up or donate. Pre-registration is open until May 21, and costs \$25 for adults and \$20 for 18 and under. All pre-registrants will receive a tech t-shirt. After May 21, registration costs \$30 for adults and \$25 for youth.

Email cvgvelocity@gmail.com with any questions regarding the race.

The Centennial Village Group is made up of Cranford volunteers dedicated to the revitalization and beautification of the Centennial Avenue business district. In addition to the

Velocity 5K Race, the Group holds various other community events, including a Bunny Hop to decorate Centennial Avenue with spring spirit, and an annual Music Fest to raise funds for its continual efforts to improve the community.



(above) The CVG Velocity 5k is on June 5 this year. All registrations, including on race day, will be online. Scan this QR code or visit racenj.com to register.

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(above, l-r) Zachary Olexa, Ryan Wukovics, Harrison Yurcisin, Zaira Hanrahan.

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The philosophy of Saint Michael School in Cranford is to promote the spiritual, academic, and personal formation of the student. The challenge of the St. Michael student is to live these teachings beyond the doors of the school into the local and world community. When the war in Ukraine began, the school community immediately put the school's philosophy into action.

The school reached out to St. Vladimir Ukrainian Church in Elizabeth. The Church, who has direct contacts in Poland and the Ukraine, provided a list of the most needed items for the millions of refugees. These items ranged from baby care items to a variety of first aid and medical supplies.

The students, families and faculty of Saint Michael School readily embraced the opportunity to help those in need. Within five days, they collected:

- 3,372 diapers & pull-ups
- 12,520 baby wipes
- 57 tubes of diaper rash ointment
- 32 containers of baby powder
- 5,349 disinfecting wipes
- 695 hand wipes
- 737 gauze pads & rolls
- 6,202 band aids
- 63 rolls of medical tape
- 1,524 disposable gloves
- 74 tubes of triple antibiotic ointment
- 40 elastic bandage wraps
- 8,485 alcohol wipes

In addition to cases of isopropyl alcohol and hydrogen peroxide, a variety of other health and beauty care items were donated. A student volunteer "counted" the items, as they thought it would help the students understand the extent and impact of their donations.

Student volunteers assisted in delivering three carloads of donations directly to St. Vladimir's in Elizabeth. Where they were greeted and personally thanked by Rev. Ruslan Romanyuk, Pastor. Parish volunteers will sort and pack the items that will be sent directly to those in need.

Mrs. Sandy Miragliotta, Principal of Saint Michael School, noted that Saint Michael is not only the patron saint of our school but also the patron saint of Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine.

Saint Michael School is located at 100 Alden Street in Cranford.

For additional information about the school, please visit smscranford.com, call (908) 276-9425 or e-mail: saint.michael@verizon.net.



(above) The students, families and faculty of Saint Michael School readily embraced the opportunity to help those in need. Photo by Saint Michael School

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MEET DEAN ELICHKO, VIETNAM VETERAN, ONE OF OUR CRANFORD 86

By Don Sweeney, Janet Ashnault - co-writer and social media coordinator, Stu Rosenthal - researcher,
Vic Bary - proofreader and military expert.

Moving through 2022 towards Memorial Day, this month's story by the Cranford 86 project was sparked by a Facebook post from the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial. NJVVM's post featured Dean Elichko and the tragic details of the plane crash that took his life on January 25th, 1966. Janet Ashnault, Cranford 86 Facebook administrator and co-writer, shared NJVVM's post to our own Facebook page, promising that we would complete the research needed to tell Dean's complete story. The photo of Dean Elichko that was shown by NJVVM is one that we have had in our research files since day one and is one of the best battle portraits in our collection. At first glance, it is a depiction of a battle-hardened warrior in front of a canvas structure, his M-16 rifle in hand. With ammunition bandoliers crisscrossing his chest and camouflage attached to his helmet, he appears ready for action. But as his story will tell, this physically strong and capable soldier was never given the opportunity to display what he could have contributed to America's war effort in Vietnam.

In preparation for the writing of the Dean Elichko story, I reviewed the research material stored in our digital files. Dean's involvement was early in the Vietnam timeline and his unit was based at Camp Radcliff, at An Khe, said to be the largest heliport in the world. I realized this part of history was very familiar to me. Camp Radcliff was also the base camp of Private Joe Minnock, age 18, the first Cranford serviceman to lose his life in Vietnam. Minnock's 8th Cavalry of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) was the first to use the Huey helicopter as their primary mode of transportation in the difficult terrain that Vietnam presented. Joe Minnock lost his life in an ambush, 60 miles west of Radcliff, just days before the US Army's first major battle in Vietnam. (See cranford86.org for more about Joe Minnock). The 1st Cavalry Division, 7th Cavalry, was under the command of the legendary Colonel Harold Moore. During November 14-18, 1965, they would take on three communist North Vietnamese divisions in the Battle of Ia Drang (pronounced Yah Drang). Embedded with the troops was United Press international journalist Joseph Galloway. The reports of Colonel Moore and Joseph Galloway chronicled this horrific battle and eventually became the best-selling book, *We Were Soldiers Once ... And Young*. The book was followed by an award-winning movie starring Mel Gibson, Sam Elliot, and Greg Kinnear. Some consider it one of the best war films ever made. Although the three battalions of the 1st Cavalry Division suffered considerable losses, the five battalions of the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) had suffered worse. It was considered a win for the American army and would set the blueprint for the Vietnam War going forward. The new airmobile concept of multi-helicopters as transporters of large numbers of ground forces was considered a success. The battle also revealed the tenacity of the North Vietnamese and anyone who thought the road



(above) Portraits of a pair of handsome brothers that once hung in the Elichko family home at 6 Mendell Avenue and now are displayed by Todd and Susan Elichko. These charming images are oil paintings over black and white photographs, believed to be grammar school graduation pictures. According to Todd, the name Elichko, was changed when his grandparents came to America from Russian Ukraine. We think it may have originally been Elishchuk.

(left) Brothers Dean and Todd Elichko of 6 Mendell Avenue pose for a touching photo before Dean shipped out to California, enroute to Vietnam. They were each other's only sibling and were nine years apart in age.



(above) Dean Elichko's graduating class from Oratory Prep numbering a mere 29 students. Quite a difference from the largest graduating class of over 375 at Cranford High School. He attended Cranford High until his senior year.

(above) Joseph and Dorothy Elichko with sons Dean and Todd, taken after Dean's graduation from Oratory Prep in Summit. Young Todd looks ready for blast-off in his astronaut's suit.

ahead would be easy, had to rethink their plans. Two months after the success of the Battle of Ia Drang, General Harry Kinnard assigned Colonel Harold Moore and his 1st Cavalry Division once again to command a follow-up mission, code name, Operation Masher. The 1st Cavalry was badly outnumbered by the NVA regulars that they had faced previously. The initial force in the Battle of Ia Drang was 1,000 American soldiers, they would lose 237 and an additional 258 wounded, 50% of their strength. Two months had passed since Colonel Harold Moore first battled at Ia Drang, 5,000 additional soldiers needed to be added to his division before the largest search and destroy mission of the war to date could take place. Most of the new recruits had little battle experience, many were brand new soldiers, Private Dean Elichko was one of those recruits. The 1st Cavalry Division combined with the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) would

total 15,000 soldiers. The action was planned to start on January 27, 1966, but bad weather pushed it back one day. The battle ended on March 3rd when the NVA retreated and left the area, it was a victory for American/South Vietnam forces. The official death toll was listed as 228 American soldiers killed and another 46 that died in an airplane crash. Tragically, this small transport plane, which crashed two days before the start of Operation Masher, was the one that contained Dean Elichko's platoon.

Dean Elichko was born on January 23rd, 1945, to Dorothy and Joseph Elichko, in an Elizabeth hospital. At the time, his father was serving in the European Theater in World War II. The family first lived in Hillside, and they moved to Cranford when Dean was 9 or 10. The Elichko's first Cranford home was at 275 Hollywood Avenue, before moving to 6 Mendell Avenue.

(continued on page 16)

DEAN ELICHKO, VIETNAM VETERAN (continued from page 15)

Dean attended Lincoln School with Nick Gerlach where according to articles in the 1957 Cranford Chronicle, they were involved in the Spanish Club and the sixth-grade play with twenty-seven other classmates. The newspaper featured highlights of the graduating class events throughout their time at Lincoln School. In 1958 Dean would attend Sherman School, Cranford's junior high school of the era. As also documented by Cranford Chronicle articles, he was involved in the intramural basketball league. In 1960 Dean would attend Cranford High School and join the football team again with Nick. He also played baseball in the competitive 15-16-year-old Cranford Pony League on the Lion's Club Blues. The write ups were very detailed with team names representing every community organization in Cranford, the VFW Colts, Rotary Bears, American Legion Chiefs, Fireman MBA Beavers, Jaycees Seals, Junior Service League Stars and Elks Angels. Reading these details from the Cranford Chronicle makes me realize how much our residents are missing without a traditional hometown newspaper. Even though his senior photo was taken over summer break and appeared in the 1965 Cranford High School yearbook, in a seemingly last-minute change of plans, Dean had transferred to a Catholic high school for his senior year. His brother Todd told us that Dean was a very religious person who attended Sunday Mass, unprompted, every week and confirmed that he did indeed graduate from Oratory Prep in Summit.

Upon discovery of a 1983 Cranford Chronicle article titled "A soldier lives on in lives of all those who knew him", our researcher, Stu Rosenthal, tracked down its author, Lou Colaneri. A close friend of Dean, Lou wrote the article using excerpts of a letter that he had written to Joe and Dorothy Elichko, describing his visit to the dedication of the new Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. His touching words led us to search for him for more information about his dear friend. We have

placed the article on our website at, cranford86.org, in the Dean Elichko profile. Some of the lines that really caught our attention are as follows: "I always remember his gentleness and kindness while at the same time recall his power and strength. He asked nothing from his friends but their integrity and gave freely of his love. For me, Dean's happiness was infectious." We found Lou, now 75, working as a real estate agent in California and he was anxious to speak with us. He explained he met Dean at his first job, as fifteen-year-olds with Robbins & Allison Moving and Storage on South Avenue in Cranford as a packer and loader. They then became classmates at Cranford High School. He described Dean's charismatic personality as one in a million. He said, "Girls and guys both loved him, he was a guy's guy, you couldn't help loving him". Lou told us of their group of six that spent much of their adolescent lives together, indicating that Nick Gerlach and Dean were inseparable. If you saw one, you saw them both. They were attached at the hip. Lou explained that Nick and Dean seemed to have their own rule book of life. Not rebellious or malicious in any way, but the two of them always seemed to be on the same page in how they dealt with different situations. After discovering that Nick Gerlach was the brother of the Cranford Historical Society's president Margaret Gerlach, she informed us that, sadly, her brother had passed away in 2013. He served during the Vietnam War in a special detail out of Arlington National Cemetery. They would perform funeral services for American military and were similar to the group that guards the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Lou Colaneri brought us information that would be later confirmed by Dean's brother Todd. While at Fort Dix, Dean was offered a position as a drill instructor. Accepting it might have kept him stateside for the term of his enlistment. Either he wanted to stay with the group that he had trained with, or maybe as Lou suggested, it was not in his DNA

to be yelling orders in the faces of young recruits. But for whatever reason, Dean passed on the offer. Another member of the group of six was Guy Borges. A member of Cranford Sports Hall of Fame as a champion baseball player, we found him retired and living in Delaware at the age of 80. He too spoke of their group of six, who would meet nightly around a fire pit at the Durham home on High Street. Clyde and Ronnie Durham were numbers five and six of the group. Guy said they just enjoyed "hanging out" and discussing and solving the world's problems while indulging in adult brewed beverages. Maybe it was here that Dean and Nick's rule book of life took shape. Interestingly, the nightly fire pit meetings were never a larger group than the six of them and never were girls involved. Guy explained that he was the connection to Robbins & Allison. He worked there as a truck driver after high school and was five years older than Dean, Lou and Nick. He recommended the three of them to his boss as strong kids that could unload trucks after school. Lou and Dean performed so well that they were kept on with the moving company throughout high school and their friendship carried on as well. After high school Nick and Lou headed off to college, Dean took full-time work at Robbins & Allison. It was while working

(continued on page 17)



Robbins & Allison Moving and Storage at 215 South Avenue East, the site of today's Spencer Savings Bank. It was an Allied Van Lines franchise in the 60's. It was here that Dean, Lou, Nick, and Guy worked together in 1962.

(below) The High Street fire pit gang of six (not pictured Clyde Durham). Three of the 6 would serve, but only Dean would do so in Vietnam.



(above) It was at the Durham home on High Street, that the group of 6 met around the fire pit and talked about life, his brother Clyde was the sixth member of the group, we could not find his picture.



(above) Lou Colaneri Lou now works in real estate in California, he worked at Robbins & Allison Moving and Storage with Dean.



Guy Borges AKA Guybo, a Cranford Sports Hall of Fame member, mostly for his baseball skill. He taught school and coached sports in Newark schools. In summer recess he managed Cranford's pool.



(above, l-r) Dean Elichko, Nick Gerlach. As described by Lou Colaneri, these two were attached at the hip. Nick's sister Margaret said they were closer than brothers staring their relationship in Grammar school. Nick would attend Kent State University before being drafted into the service. He would serve his two year enlistment in Virginia at Arlington National Cemetery in the prestigious Honor Guard where he took part in the RFK funeral.



DEAN ELICHKO, VIETNAM VETERAN (continued from page 16)

there in 1965 that Dean received his letter from the draft board, and he entered military service on August 9th, 1965.

Our Cranford 86 hero completed his basic training at Fort Dix, here in New Jersey. He spent two days in Cranford before shipping out to Oakland, California, where he was attached to the 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). He would depart for Vietnam on Christmas Day, 1965. Camp Radcliff at An Khe was the staging area for the 1st Cavalry Division. To reduce the dust from the helicopter propellers, the grounds were totally groomed and that look got it the nickname, the "Golf Course". It was at Camp Radcliff that Dean Elichko would be identified as a New Jersey soldier to an embedded photographer from Plainfield NJ named Peter Behr. Peter worked for the Gannett-owned Times-Union in Rochester, NY. Gannett also owned the Courier News in Bridgewater, NJ, from which the photo reached its NJ readers. He arranged to feature Dean in a posed portrait that was taken just before he boarded one of the twelve Fairchild C-123K turboprop transport planes that awaited Elichko's battalion. The use of transport planes to move soldiers from Camp Radcliff was unusual, being it was the largest heliport on earth. But the size of the attacking forces and the amount of ammunition and supplies for a full division action of 15,000 soldiers was extraordinary and required larger capacity aircraft. Each of the twelve transport planes would carry approximately forty soldiers and a crew of four along with assorted supplies and ammunition as they flew to Bong Son for Operation Masher. The weather that day was typical of monsoon season in northern Vietnam which ran from October to March. Elichko's plane was packed full of mortars and grenades. These transport planes were small compared to most planes of this nature, able to take off and land on short primitive runways. They had no fuel tanks in the wings as many planes did, which helped to protect the tanks from ground fire attacks.

The details of Dean's ill-fated flight are from the Air Force crash report acquired by Stu Rosenthal. It stated that the aircraft departed An Khe on a mission to Bong Son, carrying a crew of four and forty-two troops of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, who were being taken to Bong Son to take part in Operation Masher. After takeoff, the airplane encountered difficulties reaching altitude, while in clouds, the right wing struck trees. On impact, the right engine and six meters of the right wing were torn off. Out of control, the airplane crashed in a wooded area located 10 km from An Khe, killing all 46 occupants. It was determined that the right engine failed during initial climb. It was reported that the crew encountered technical issues with the right engine that failed twice prior to departure. Contributing factors were poor maintenance and poor weather conditions with low clouds down to 300 feet with limited visibility. The crew was forced to initiate the flight under visual flight rules (VFR) which was not appropriate in such weather conditions. According to eyewitnesses

on the ground from 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, the transport plane struck trees and inverted as it crashed into a hillside. Due to the nature of the cargo, an explosion followed, killing everyone on board. The other eleven C-123K planes reached their destination successfully.

I consulted with Cranford VFW patriarch, 94-year-old, Art Snyder, who has piloted over thirty-eight bomber missions in Korea in a B-26 Invader as well as missions for the CIA. He is our in-house midcentury military flight expert, and his expertise is essential to our project. Art explained the difference between IFR and VFR that is mentioned in the crash report. In mountainous areas Art explained, instrument flight rules (IFR) should be used. It troubled Art that this flight was approved for take-off.

For each of our Cranford 86 stories we always try very hard to locate and contact family members, not only to learn more about our servicemen, but also to have the family be able to sign off on the final version of the story of their loved one. We had been on a mission to find Dean's brother Todd, but with one day to go before our Cranford Monthly deadline, that effort was close to being abandoned. Finally, we had a breakthrough when members of the "You know you grew up in Cranford when..." Facebook page got us in contact with Todd Elichko's wife Susan. I was given a cell phone number and an address. I sent a text and left a voice mail. After four days of back and forth texting, I offered a six pack get-together, just like Dean and his group of six would have done. Todd finished

work at 10:00 pm and I was asked to join them at their home in nearby Roselle Park at 10:15. Todd, now 65 and his wife of 46 years, Susan, had waiting for me, a pizza and a box of pictures, news clippings and letters from various leaders of the Army and our country. Todd was now semi-retired after a career in real estate and had never heard of our Cranford 86 project. We talked about Dean, a horrible war and the sadness that was bestowed upon his family in 1966 and his memories and lack thereof from 56 years ago. He told me that he might not have much in the way of stories and anecdotes to share, being only 9 years old when he lost his brother and additionally he felt that they didn't really have much of a relationship, being 10 years apart. Thinking that maybe he was unintentionally locking out the sadness, Todd told me that he had gone for professional help to find out why he couldn't remember more details about his brother. His counselor assured him that, considering the circumstances, there was nothing unusual about his situation. One memory that was very clear was when the car with military representatives rolled up in front of their home on Mendell Avenue. He had been staying at the house next door while his mom and dad were away for the weekend. The two uniformed men asked if the Elichko family lived here. Todd responded excitedly, "Yes they

(continued on page 18)



PFC Dean Elichko stands ready for battle in Vietnam in this photo taken by Plainfield NJ photographer Peter Behr. The photo was taken shortly before Dean's transport flight at the start of Operation Masher. Behr said that Dean spoke of his home and appeared confident as he prepared for his first combat duty.



Dean and one of his 1st Cavalry Division comrades pass the tense moments in An Khe as they await the commencement of the largest search and destroy mission of the Vietnam War. PFC Elichko served with Company A (175 soldiers), 2nd Battalion (700 soldiers), 7th Cavalry Regiment (1,500 soldiers), 1st Cavalry Division (15,00 soldiers)



A Fairchild C-123 Provider, in flight. This transport plane was smaller than most aircraft of its nature, only 75 feet long. With twin turbo jet engines, it could take off from very short, unprepared runways and was widely used in the Vietnam War. The plane that was transporting Dean's unit was 10 years old.

DEAN ELICHKO, VIETNAM VETERAN (continued from page 17)

do!” The men went to the door and rang the bell and then drove off. Todd had no idea at the time that this was the way the Army delivered bad news. The following day he remembers his father sitting with him on the porch and saying, “Dean is not coming home”. They cried together for over a half an hour. Todd remembers vividly the wake at Dooley Funeral Home and the 3 Volley gun salute provided by the Army at Graceland Memorial Park cemetery in Kenilworth, but sadly has almost no memories of him and his big brother in happier times. He has just a few photos of himself with Dean and a stack of letters in each of which his brother never failed to mention him. As Todd told me about the Vietnamese currency that Dean would send home, he pulled out his wallet and showed me a flat plastic bag containing a Vietnamese bill folded into a triangle, he told me that he always carries it with him.

Todd said that everyone who consoled his mom and dad were of a single theme, “It’s a shame that he lost his life in this worthless war”. As a fourth grader, upon returning to Lincoln School after a two week absence, he was not met with sympathy and his description of how he was treated is heartbreaking. Unbelievably, he was told that he shouldn’t expect to get special treatment for losing his brother in the Vietnam War. There were many other cruel comments, made frequently in front of the entire class. The principal and two teachers were involved and to this day Todd still remembers their names. It’s sad and unfortunate that in some cases individual political views overshadowed what should have been just a sincere show of concern and support for a grieving family.

Todd confirmed that indeed, Dean was offered an assignment at Fort Dix as a drill instructor. He too didn’t know why his brother turned down a position that may have kept him safe throughout his enlistment. His speculation was that perhaps he wanted to stay with his 7th Cavalry comrades. After hearing everything that was presented to me from all involved, I had a theory as well. Dean was a bodybuilder, according to Todd, and Lou Colaneri said he was known for his power and strength. It was why he was so good at his job with Robbins & Allison Moving and Storage. He was praised by the owners for his ability to unload and load trucks faster than anyone else, perhaps encouraging him to stay on after high school graduation and make it his full-time occupation. Todd said that Dean was continually criticized by his mom and dad about his choice of employment, insisting that he could do better. When he received his call to service from the draft board, he chose to volunteer to the prestigious 7th Cavalry, a position that demanded extreme physical condition and would guarantee being placed in the front lines. I believe that after the rigorous training in the legendary unit, he decided that he could make his family and townspeople proud of him as he served his country with his strength and power. According to Todd, the fact that Dean had turned down the offer to stay stateside, perhaps saving his life, was never shared with his mom, Dorothy.

My visit with the Elichkos lasted until way past midnight, as we were winding down, another memory sparked for Todd. He told us of a news article from An Khe which was released shortly after Dean’s death. It revealed an event of heroism that occurred at Camp Radcliff, while the troops were awaiting the start of Operation Masher. While loading the planes with thousands of pounds of grenades, mortars, and assorted incendiary devices, a flare ignited inside a canvas tent structure. In a moment of chaos, everyone quickly evacuated the area, fearing an impending explosion. The author wrote, PFC Dean Elichko ran back into the structure, grabbed the flare, and threw it away. Dean was up for a special honor for this event but was blocked by a technicality concerning a commanding officer that needed to verify the details. Todd feels that his brother should have received an award for valor. Surely if that flare had ignited the ammunition cargo within the tent, many lives would have been changed on that January day. Curiously, despite the fact that Dean’s grave marker bears the letters PH, Todd informed us that they never did receive the actual Purple Heart medal, an honor to which his brother was certainly entitled. Upon inquiry, the Elichkos were offered a generic medal, but declined, in hopes of obtaining a proper award on which the recipient’s name is engraved.

To date that has not happened. We were extremely glad when Todd told us about the “best day of his life”, which occurred when he attended the dedication of the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial. General Norman Schwarzkopf was the speaker. This was the first time Todd had heard anyone praise the mission of these 1562 New Jersey men and 1 woman who lost their lives while serving in Vietnam. Schwarzkopf said he’d be proud to go into battle with every one of them. He assured everyone that they were not the misguided elements of this bad war, but it was the politicians who put them there that were at fault. They were brave American warriors who deserve our respect.

An interesting observation about Dean’s wake was recalled by Lou and confirmed by Todd. Lou



Much information can be gained from military grave markers, religion, full name, state of residence, rank, unit (from the smallest group to the largest) and the war in which they fought. The PH indicates Purple Heart recipient, and dates of birth and death are listed.

Cranford 86, with garden tools in hand, will always make the trip, if possible, to locate the final resting place of each one of our heroes. We clean up the area around the monument, place a flag and say a prayer. Dean’s grave is at Graceland Memorial Park.

remembers gathering with a small group of classmates, in jackets and ties, outside the Dooley Funeral Home. They entered the room as a group of 12 to 15. He was surprised to find only Mr. and Mrs. Elichko and a very small group of family and friends inside. Lou said he wondered why there weren’t more people there to honor such a wonderful person that died serving his country. To me that is puzzling as well. If this situation were to happen today, I would think that the line would be around the block, twice.

Private First Class Dean Elichko, just two days before that January morning, had just turned 21. He had only been “in country” in Vietnam for less than five weeks. In the short story of Dean’s service in Vietnam, we may have been given some insight as to some of what was written in the previously mentioned “Rule Book of Life” which he shared with his buddy Nick. Courage, patriotism, strength, and responsibility are a few of the things that come to mind. Dean bravely stepped up to serve our country when he was asked, and the Cranford 86 team is very proud to share his story. Special thanks go out to Victor Bary and his wife Maureen Strazdon, for sponsoring the banner of PFC Dean Elichko, which will fly proudly in downtown Cranford. Vic is our Cranford 86 military expert. He is a Vietnam Veteran and the recipient of a Bronze Star with a V for Valor. We are excited and honored that Todd Elichko and his wife Susan have plans to attend this year’s Memorial Day Parade and ceremony in Cranford.

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In memoriam: Dean Elichko was one of eight Cranford men who died in Vietnam War. His friend Lou Colaneri photographed that portion of the new memorial in Washington carrying Elichko's name, above, and wrote a tribute.

A soldier lives on in lives of all those who knew him . .

Dean Elichko was one of eight Cranford men killed in the Vietnam War. The following tribute to him was written by his friend who also served in that war, Lou Colaneri, who is a native of Cranford and now lives and works in New York City. The article is adapted from a letter Colaneri wrote to Dean's parents, Joseph and Dorothy Elichko, who live here, after the Vietnam Memorial was dedicated in Washington.

By LOU COLANERI

There were three reasons I went to Washington.

One was to be part of the body of citizens there to pay a long overdue tribute to America's Vietnam veterans. Another was to be there for me, to help me deal with the war and the loss of a dear friend. And finally, most importantly, to honor Dean's memory.

Dean was very special to me. He was a little older than me. I always looked up to and respected him.

I always remember his gentleness and kindness while at the same time recalling his power and strength. He asked nothing from his friends but, due to integrity and gave freely of his love. For me, Dean's happiness was infectious.

As young men back then, it was not easy for any of us to show tenderness, not easy for any of us that is, except for Dean. He was always disarming in the way he loved his friends, his girls and his music. I have many versions of one of Dean's favorite songs in my record collection. That song is "Deep Purple" which was a hit in the 60's by Nico Tempego and April Stevens.

I have often remembered Dean over the years and I have shared the memory of him with all my friends. They know him as I know him even though they never met him.

In reflective moments in my life I relate much of my experiences to the spirit which Dean instilled in me. He is very much a part of me; I share him freely and openly with my friends.

We all must die one day. For me, Dean was one of those people that, no matter how old he would have been, be it even 80 years old, it still would have been too soon to lose him. That is why his memory is so cherished to me.

I took a photo of a portion of the Vietnam Memorial which was unveiled during Vietnam Veterans' Week last November. It is a beautiful tribute. Although nothing could sufficiently compensate for his loss, it is a dignified monument to his memory.

I found some peace and strength seeing it for the first time. I lingered a long time before the panel that bears his name. I urge everyone to visit the memorial. I am unable to describe the emotions experienced while in the presence of that wall.

I took part in the activities of Vietnam Veterans' Week. As a result of what I learned about myself that week as well as what I learned about the special problems of the Vietnam veterans I am now actively engaged in the formation of a Manhattan chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, an organization, founded through out far, and assist our veterans.

I am involved as a responsible citizen and also in tribute to Dean. I try to bring as much dignity to my efforts to the VVA as Dean brought dignity to our friendship.

Some time ago I read something from the educator Angelo Patri that summed up my feelings about Dean and his memory. I will close my letter with those words along with my sincere wish that you come to know peace and love and tranquility.

Patri wrote:

"In one sense there is no death. The life of a soul on earth lasts beyond his departure. You will always feel that life touching yours, that voice speaking to you, that spirit looking out of other eyes, talking to you in the familiar things he touched, worked with, loved as familiar friends.

"He lives on in your life and in the lives of all others that knew him."

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(above, l-r) Josephine Walsh, Mobile Meals of Westfield, and Jason Rooney Sheet Metal Workers' Union.

SHEET METAL WORKERS' UNION SUPPORTS MOBILE MEALS OF WESTFIELD

Sheet Metal Workers' Union No. 22 presented Mobile Meals of Westfield \$600 in gift cards on April 14.

Mobile Meals of Westfield is a non-profit organization which provides nutritious hot meals for those unable to provide meals for themselves. The organization serves the communities of Clark, Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield.

For more information visit mobilemealsofwestfield.org or call 908-233-6146.

Sheet Metal Workers' Union No. 22 serves Union, Morris, Somerset and Sussex Counties. The union members support veterans, the homeless and non-profit organizations as part of their community assistance programs. In addition, new union members, as part of their apprenticeship, provide 20 hours of community service annually over a five-year period for a total of 100 hours. For more information on the union, visit MWIALU22.ORG. The union has been a consistent supporter of Mobile Meals of Westfield, and their generous donation is most appreciated.

RELAY FOR LIFE OF CRANFORD – MAY 20

American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Cranford invites the community to join the movement to honor and remember loved ones and fight back for lifesaving change on Friday May 20th, 2022 (5 p.m. to midnight) at Orange Avenue School (901 Orange Ave, Cranford, NJ). Community volunteers are the backbone of this movement which includes cancer survivors, caregivers, local citizens, and participants who believe that the future can be free from cancer and own the power to make that change.

This year's event will feature music and entertainment by Bushwick Sounds Productions, along with games, food, and activities for all!

For more than 35 years, Relay For Life has joined communities together to remember loved ones lost, honor survivors of all cancers, and raise money to help the American Cancer Society save lives from cancer. Dollars raised each year by over 500,000 Relay participants across the country help attack all cancers in countless ways – funding and conducting breakthrough research, providing education, advocating for the needs of cancer patients and their families, and providing essential services throughout their cancer journey.

There are many ways to get involved!

Join the Relay For Life of Cranford – Sign up to join an existing team or start a new team at www.RelayForLife.org/CranfordNJ

Join the Survivor Lap! Cancer Survivors are invited to celebrate by joining the Survivor Lap at the annual Relay for Life event, as well as our Survivor Dinner. For more information, please contact Linda Miklencic, at miklencic@verizon.net.

Get your business involved – Being involved in Relay For Life events supports your community Relay For Life event and provides

your employees and customers, an opportunity to participate in the fight against cancer. For information on sponsorship opportunities or how you can get your business involved, contact Vicky Allen, Senior Development Manager at vicky.allen@cancer.org, 732-825-6958.

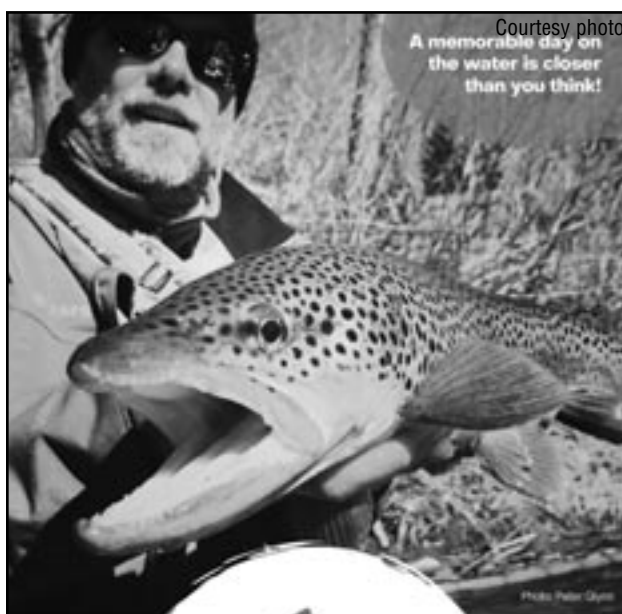
Donate - If you can't participate in this year's event, you can still help save lives by making a event donation. Every dollar fuels the American Cancer Society's fight against cancer. Visit www.RelayForLife.org/CranfordNJ to make a donation today.

Dedicate a Luminaria Bag for a loved one – Luminarias honor every life touched by cancer. For a \$10 donation, you can dedicate them to a loved one lost, someone currently battling, or anyone who's overcome it. Our Luminaria Ceremony begins after dusk and participants will see the Luminarias decorated with names and sometimes messages to the people they're dedicated to. To dedicate a Luminaria Bag go to: <https://tinyurl.com/2022CranfordLuminaria>

Volunteer – Relay For Life is a community driven event and we are always looking for volunteers to join our Leadership Team, or just help out on the day of the event! Contact Vicky Allen for information on how you can volunteer; vicky.allen@cancer.org/ 732-825-6958.

Founded by Dr. Gordy Klatt in Tacoma, Washington, in 1985, the Relay For Life movement unites communities across the globe to celebrate people who have been touched by cancer, remember loved ones lost, and take action for lifesaving change.

A special thank you to the Cranford Board of Education and Cranford Township for their continued support in making this event possible in the Cranford community. To learn more about Relay For Life of Cranford, visit www.RelayForLife.org/CranfordNJ.



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ALEKSANDR FEGAN REPEATS AS NATIONAL SKATING CHAMP

Aleksandr "Sasha" Fegan, Cranford Resident and 5th Grade student at Livingston Avenue School, competed in the 2022 US Figure Skating Championship Series in Leesburg, VA and Norwood, MA. He won both series he competed in, and with the highest total score of all Intermediate Men skaters across the country, becoming the US National Champion for the second year in a row.

In 2021, Sasha became a National Champion after winning the 2021 US Championships at the Juvenile/Intermediate level in Figure Skating at the age of 10, the youngest competitor in the competition.

He also retained a spot at the US Figure Skating National Development Team and was invited to the prestigious US National Development Camp as well. The 2022 season was truly a perfect one for Sasha – he took home

Gold in every single competition he entered (eleven in total, including two 2022 US National Series). It was an undefeated season!

Because of his success, Sasha was selected by an international committee to compete in his first international assignment in Europe, representing Team USA at the 2022 Challenge Cup in Tilburg, Netherlands on February 24-27. This was his international debut at the Advanced Novice Men level and he won a Silver medal for Team USA.

Sasha's parents, Irina and Jeffrey Fegan thanks his head coach Roman Serov and choreographer Nina Petrenko for their hard work and dedication. They also thank Livingston Avenue School, especially Sasha's 5th Grade teacher Mrs. Ferguson and secretary Mrs. Nancy La Shure, for providing great support and understanding particularly before Sasha's major competitions.



(above) Aleksandr "Sasha" Fegan is the US National Champion figure skater for the second year in a row.

Courtesy photos



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GRETA'S RUN FOR IMAGINE - MAY 22

MEET THE CRANFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Throughout 2022, the Cranford Police Department Community Outreach Unit is hosting "Meet The Department" sessions at the Cranford Community Center. Much like Coffee with a Cop, the purpose of "Meet The Department" is to host meet-and-greet sessions with the specific divisions, bureaus, and units that make-up the Cranford Police Department. Each session is from 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- May 26th, 2022 - Traffic Bureau
- August 25th, 2022 - Juvenile Bureau
- September 15th, 2022
 - Detective Bureau/Investigative Division
- October 4th, 2022 - Patrol Division (National Coffee With A Cop Day)
- November 10th, 2022 - Community Support Services/Training Division

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Dr. Deborah Cannon Partridge Wolfe Library and Learning Commons at CHS

All parents/guardians and community members are cordially invited to meet with Dr. Scott Rubin, Superintendent of Schools, for "coffee and conversation" regarding the Cranford Public School District.

This is a great opportunity to engage in dialogue about topics that are important to the school community.

Please RSVP to chiu@cranfordschools.org so that we may plan for your attendance

The 9th Annual Greta's Run for Imagine will be held in-person for the first time in 2 years! Join us on Sunday May 22, 2022 for an official USATF 5K race through Westfield, NJ. This year, we are introducing a Memory Walk – a 0.6 mile route where families of the community can walk in memory of anyone who has died. Memory Walk Registrants can purchase a sign to decorate with the name of their loved one to line the walk route and memorialize their family member.

Greta's Run began 9 years ago when a group of Greta Schoenemann's friends decided they wanted to honor her memory with a 5k race. Greta had died on September 15, 2002 due to injuries sustained when a branch fell on a group of students as they were eating lunch outside of Westfield High School. This year marks the 20th anniversary of Greta's death and the 9th year the race has been run in her honor.

Sadly, many of us have experienced the loss of someone we love and this year's event is in honor of all of them. We invite everyone to join us as we run, walk or roll in honor of Greta and all those we love who have died. At Imagine, we see this run as an act of honor, as an act of mourning and of remembrance for our families and our community.

Before the 5K race, we invite everyone to join us for a Memory Walk when we will provide time and space for all to walk in honor of those who have died but are not forgotten.

Proceeds from the race support Imagine's free peer support groups for children and families coping with grief, as well as Imagine's grief education programs which are available for schools and businesses looking to better support their communities. Additionally, Imagine staff are available to provide support in the immediate aftermath of a loss in a school community, organization or place of business.

We are so thankful for our sponsors thus far for the 9th Annual Greta's Run for Imagine. A big thank you to our Memory Walk Sponsor: Toriello

Family in honor of MTT Memorial Fund and thank you to our hydration sponsor Westfield Pediatric Dental Group, and shirt sponsors Family Investors Company and Rossi Funeral Home. Your sponsorships help underwrite the event and help ensure that every dollar goes directly to providing free grief support for children and families. To become a sponsor, please contact Angela Marie Tayco at angela@imagine-nj.org or 908-228-3360.

To register for Greta's Run and/or the Memory Walk, please visit imagine-nj.org/gretasrun. We look forward to coming together

as a community to honor and remember those we love who have died.

Imagine's Executive Director, Lindsay Schambach would like to extend this invitation to you: 'We hope that you will join us and walk alongside our families, our children, and our community, and let everyone know that their loss matters, that they are not alone, and they are never forgotten.'

Imagine offers grief and loss education and training to the community and free year-round grief support groups for children ages 3-18 who have had a parent, sibling, or close family member die. Concurrent groups are available for parents and guardians of the children in our groups, and young adults 18-30. Imagine also offers a support group for Spanish speaking adults. For more information, please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imagine-nj.org.



imagine-nj.org/gretasrun



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GIRL SCOUTS & THE ART OF CARING

Girl Scouts of Cranford

In late 2021, Julie Carroll, Director of Cranford Family Care, reached out to Girl Scouts of Cranford for volunteers to create and paint murals to replace those that had been lost to the September flood. When the members of Ambassador Troop 40071 heard of this opportunity, they agreed that service to this beloved Cranford institution would be a perfect note on which to conclude their scouting experience before graduating. Even more serendipitous, was that one member of Troop 40071 in particular, Bridget Kachooagian, is a very talented artist and this project was a perfect fit for her talents.

Bridget met with Julie at CFC and then created and submitted 6 mural ideas. Then two teams were assembled to trace and paint the two selected murals. The Ambassador Troop of Cranford High School Seniors—Bridget Kachooagian, Julia Ramsay, Amelia Hunt, Emily Cavanna, Sofia Bongiovanni, Jordan Padovano and Gabriella Pecoraro—created the two murals that brighten the workspace and celebrate the amazing work of Cranford Family Care. Every aspect of the murals pays homage to the mission of Cranford Family Care.

Julie Carroll explained, “About eight years ago, a Cranford Girl Scout troop painted two murals for Cranford Family Care. The front office mural became our traditional backdrop for

photographs with volunteers. Unfortunately, our building was hit hard with flood damage from Hurricane Ida and all the walls had to be repaired and repainted. Once we were back up and running, I kept looking at the freshly painted walls. Something was missing. I reached out to the leadership of Girl Scouts of Cranford and was quickly introduced to Bridget. Thanks to Bridget and her fellow troop members, we now have two new and inspiring murals. CFC truly appreciates the community spirit of Girl Scouts of Cranford as well as this Troop's time, energy, and creativity!”

Bridget Kachooagian said, “It was a great honor for me to be able to work with CFC on the murals and also it was an incredibly fun way for the Troop to work together and help out the Cranford community.” Each one of the Ambassadors was truly moved by the experience and honored to play a role beautifying the space that is a lifeline to the community.

Ambassador Troop 40071 was able to leave an indelible mark on a very special organization in our town. As they are nearing graduation and looking to the future, they know they have contributed special art for a remarkable organization that has served the Cranford community since 1936.

The Girl Scouts of Cranford boasts over 1,139 Girl Scout Members in 71 troops and Juliettes (individually registered members) 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) Ambassador Troop 40071's Bridget Kachooagian, Sofia Bongiovanni, Jordan Padovano and Gabriella Pecoraro start work on one of two murals at Cranford Family Care. The murals, designed by Kachooagian, replace those lost in Hurricane Ida.

Photos by Girl Scouts of Cranford

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NEW DEALS FOR OLD WHEELS

On Saturday, May 7, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Faith Lutheran Church, 524 South Street in New Providence, will again be collecting second-hand bikes for use by adults and children in third world countries. The collection is being conducted on behalf of Pedals for Progress, an organization which annually recycles 6,000 bicycles for persons in developing countries. Anyone with a bicycle in repairable condition is urged to donate to this worthy cause. Bikes may be dropped off at the parking lot next to the church. On that day, members of Faith will repair and process the bikes for shipment by P4P.

Since 2002, Faith Lutheran has been collecting bikes for P4P. In 2021, five hundred sixty-four bikes were collected from persons and organizations in New Providence, Berkeley Heights, Mountainside, Westfield, Chatham, Warren, Scotch Plains and Fanwood. The collection by Faith occurs throughout the year. The range of towns was aided by articles published in Renna Media publications.

Every year affluent Americans buy 22 million new bicycles and discard millions of old ones, abandoning many more in basements, sheds and

garages. Most of these end up in our already overburdened landfills.

P4P ships its reconditioned bikes to persons in need of countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia. The bikes provide reliable transportation to commute to work, transport produce to market, access health care and other services. Steady employment for adults is vital to the development and success of these economies.

P4P reports that the cost of shipping bikes has increased significantly in recent years and now presents a substantial financial burden to P4P. Last year, Faith contributed \$3,000 toward the shipment of the bikes. Persons donating bikes gave \$1,273 toward shipment. P4P is asking persons to donate \$15 toward the shipping costs, if they are financially comfortable doing so. Donation or not, Faith welcomes all bikes in repairable condition.

Since 2016, the chairperson of Faith's Pedal for Progress ministry has been Casey Walsh of Bridgewater, a long-time member of the church.

The pastor of Faith is Rev. Jane McCready. Visit online at famfaith.org or call the church office at 908-464-5177. The address is 524 South Street, New Providence.

Courtesy photos



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MEET SUSAN SHAW - SPECIAL ADVOCATE FOR FOSTER YOUTH

By Isabela Bello-Zap, CASA of Union County

Our perception of time has certainly changed since the pandemic began and, as we begin to transition to in-person activities once again, being a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for foster youth volunteer may actually look different during this phase. For Susan Shaw of Cranford, who has been with CASA of Union County since 2018 – pre-Covid-19 era, her dedication to the wellbeing of children in the welfare system remains steadfast.

Susan's interest in advocating for underserved children began while working at an inner-city public school and simply continued in her role as a CASA Volunteer. "As I witnessed what some children experience, I knew I wanted to make a difference," she explains. Exercising her role as an empathetic mentor and advocate, Susan says she's found joy and purpose while working with her two CASA cases since taking her oath. Her first case involved a 5-year-old whose biological family was unprepared to meet her needs. The child has since been adopted and now finds herself with an abundance of care and love from her adoptive parents and siblings. In Susan's current case – three siblings living in their biological home – she enjoys time alongside them coloring and creating with playdough, noting, "I find that when the kids are focused on different tasks, they tend to relax and the conversation flows more freely. My goal is to experience some laughter during our visits."

This giving and light-spirited attitude guides Susan in her endeavors outside of CASA of Union County as well. As a former soccer player (20 years in the making!), a mom of three, dog mom of two, and cat mom of one, there's no doubt that Susan shows purposeful commitment in everything she does.

Currently president of the Cranford Parent Teacher Council (PTC), and a former PTA president at her children's elementary school, Susan is actively involved in PTC's strategic planning committee, pandemic response, and inclusivity initiatives. She says of this work, and her CASA commitment, "I enjoy advocating for

children and am blessed to have found two roles that allow me to put this passion to good use."

Sitting still isn't Susan's thing, and she enjoys both working hard and playing hard! In her downtime, you'll find Susan gleefully exploring new destinations and enjoying the exciting moments in an airport, where the anticipation of adventure is tangible. Her out and abouts don't stop there and don't always require a plane, of course. Whether hiking in the woods, walking along the Jersey Shore, or skiing at a mountaintop, Susan welcomes new experiences with arms wide open.

Free time likely also includes her love of listening to country or spiritual music, reading books – her current is *Red Tent* by Anita Diamant – or the ease of watching light-hearted "chick flicks" and TV shows with her family and friends. Know this: if it's Tuesday, and it's dinnertime, you can bet Susan and her family are deep into their beloved and longstanding Taco Tuesday tradition. (Pretty sure a heads up you're headed her way will guarantee a plate at the table for you as well. What's another person but another fellow adventurer?)

With family values and optimism such core traits for Susan, she admittedly takes her work as a volunteer and child advocate very seriously. She shares that being a CASA Volunteer "has provided me with a greater empathy for those experiencing very difficult situations in their own lives. Whether or not it is witnessing parents hurting from addiction, mental illness or poverty, there is a sense of loss that is so tangible. The hurt and loss have such an impact on the children's present life and their expectations of their future. It's my hope that my involvement changes the trajectory of a bad situation and hopefully leads to better days for the kids, and their parents."

It seems that Susan's mom may be at the root of her steadfast hope for the future and enacting change in children's lives. She says while growing up, the example set by her mom was solid: despite any family disagreements, she was always a source of support. And for Susan, that's something she abides by and actively instills in



(above) Susan Shaw of Cranford
'I knew I wanted to make a difference'.

her own relationships with her children.

For her CASA youth, there's no doubt that Susan's efforts to stand up and take action as community leaders – and her encouragement of others to do so – will leave a positive impact. Witnessing Susan's persistence, belief in never giving up despite the toughest of situations, and the consistency she provides in their lives certainly will impact the three little girls she's currently advocating for and – whether she realizes it or not – all those they will one day be able to help as well, having had the foundation set now by their CASA Volunteer.

ABOUT CASA OF UNION COUNTY

As the only nonprofit serving as extra eyes and ears for Union County judges hearing cases of youth in the child welfare system, the organization regularly recruits community volunteers to serve these local child-victims from birth to age 21. To learn more about CASA of Union County, how to join a training class, and other ways to Change a Child's Story, email info@casaoofunioncounty.org.

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PRESENTATION ON COMPOSTING – MAY 12

Please join the Hanson Park Conservancy and Cranford Environmental commission for a presentation given by our guest speaker, Virginia Lamb as she discusses Soil Health and Backyard Composting on Thursday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cranford Community Center. Virginia Lamb, a noted environmental educator of Groundwork Educational Consulting, will discuss soil health, why it is important to a successful garden and the environment, and show easy ways to turn organic waste into rich compost.

Ms. Lamb has more than 20 years of experience in backyard composting, waste reduction and organic gardening. She will demonstrate composting of kitchen and garden materials, including what to compost and how to speed up the composting process. She will also discuss how to make compost tea and how to use the finished product, a gardener's "black gold."

The Cranford Community Center is located at 220 Walnut Ave. in Cranford, NJ. The program is free and open to the public. No registration is required, but seating is available on a first-come, first-serve basis, so please arrive early!

This presentation is sponsored by the Hanson Park Conservancy and the Cranford Environmental Commission. It is made possible by a grant from The Jan Lilien Education Fund. To learn more, please visit our websites, hansonparkconservancy.com and mygreencranford.org or like us on Facebook.

SEA SCOUTS OPEN HOUSE – MAY 21

Sea Scouts from Ship 228 operate the 65' vessel Sea Dart II, one of the largest Sea Scout vessels on the east coast, along with a fleet of smaller vessels (including sailboats) from their base located in Linden, NJ. Sea Scouting (Part of the Venturing Program of the BSA – Boy Scouts of America) offers young adults the opportunity to travel and learn skills that could be useful in future careers.

Whether you're steering the vessel from the wheelhouse, learning engine room repair or visiting a new port on one of the many trips, there's something you'll enjoy in Sea Scouting. So, try something different, check us out, and prepare yourself to set sail for a real adventure.

Parents, give your son or daughter a valuable gift by encouraging them to join Sea Scouting today. The time you invest in him today will make a difference in the person he becomes tomorrow.

Sea Scouting is for boys and girls who are at least 14 years old (or 13 years of age and have completed eighth grade) and under 21 years of age. We have a Maritime Explorer Club for

middle school aged youth as well. Potential adult volunteers are welcome too!

The crews of Patriots Path Sea Scouts will host their open house at the Carteret Marina, located in the Carteret Waterfront park, 200 Middlesex Avenue, Carteret, NJ, on Saturday, May 21, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sea Scout Ship's 228 and 243 normally operate out of their base at 4400 Tremley Point Road in Linden, NJ, which is currently undergoing a construction project. As a result, the town of Carteret has graciously offered the use of their municipal marina to host our open house this year.

The open house will include tours of the council's main vessels (the 65-foot Sea Dart II and Sea Horse), an introduction to the Sea Scout program, and fun activities that are bound to pique a young adult's interest in boating and scouting. There will be free hamburgers and hot-dogs for those who tour the vessels. No reservation required. Come down to visit and bring a friend or family member!

For more information visit ship228.com.



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SHINING STARS TO PRESENT “GREATEST HITS” - MAY 14TH

The Shining Stars are back! Celebrating 10 years on the stage, the talented special needs cast will be presenting “The Greatest Hits” — covering many of the memorable performances over the past decade.

The outdoor show will take place on the campus of Woodbridge High School, located at 1 Samuel Lupo Way, Woodbridge, on Saturday, May 14, 2022 at 5 p.m. There will be food trucks, a tricky tray and a 50/50 raffle.

“It’s hard to believe it’s been ten years, but it’s been an incredible journey,” noted Shining Stars Network Founder and Show Director Sally Curci. “We continue to be inspired by our performers every day. Their passion, dedication and talent is what makes our shows come to life.”

The Shining Stars have performed in front of audiences of 1,000 or more, with cast members from seven different counties performing over

the years. The Cranford-based organization still has many Cranford residents, but is open to anyone who wants to experience the performing arts.

“We’re all about inclusion and opportunity while building self-esteem and creating friendships,” said Shining Stars Network Founder and President Mike Curci. “There have been so many incredible performances over the years and we can’t wait to see our stars shine on stage once again.”

Tickets are available by going to ShiningStarsNetwork.org and clicking on the “purchase tickets” page. General admission tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the show. Please bring a folding chair or blanket. Seating boxes are first-come, first-served. Gates open at 4 p.m. Plenty of on-site parking is available. Rain date is May 21st. Any cancellation will be noted at ShiningStarsNetwork.org.

SHINING STARS NETWORK is a non-profit organization based in Cranford, N.J. founded by Sally and Mike Curci that shines the light on the special needs community by creating opportunities in the performing arts, with the goal of building self-confidence and self-esteem while enjoying the experience of performing on stage. In addition, their Shining Stars Ambassadors basketball team travels to play local first responders and organizations while building friendship and understanding. Now entering its 6th year, Camp Shine (for ages 10-20 years) and The Shining Stars Summer Workshop (21 and over performers) are two-week intensive programs open to everyone, including those with developmental disabilities, that will take place August 15-26, 2022. For more information on Shining Stars Network or any of their programs, please visit ShiningStarsNetwork.org or send your email to ShiningStarsNetwork@gmail.com.



(above) Shining Stars, a special needs performing arts group, takes the stage on May 14th. For more information visit ShiningStarsNetwork.org.

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FRANK SILVESTRINI COMPLETES OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL



Frank Silvestrini, Cranford High School class of 2017, Rutgers New Brunswick class of 2021, has successfully completed Officer Candidate School for the US Navy and has been assigned the rank of ensign. Frank will now be training in Pensacola FL to become a Naval Flight Officer.

Frank and his family would like to thank the community of Cranford for all the help he received to embark on this journey. Every teacher and coach, all his friends, and teammates. Thank you, he could not have done it without you.

A NEW KIND OF VETERANS' EVENT

Submitted by Jesus Alejandro MiroQuesada

The New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) has a different way of reaching out to veterans and they proved this during their recent NJVN Veterans Salute event, a joint venture between the NJVN and the State VFW. NJVN Director Frank "Doc" Schupp and President Michael Boll treated NJ veterans to an event filled with enjoyable times, hot meals, free business attire, and resources for our state's heroes.

As you walked into the large room at VFW 2433 in Union Township, NJ, there were dozens of veterans smiling and mingling while DJ Doc Bear (an army veteran) played some tunes. The usual serious tone of similar events was replaced with a feeling of fun, comradery and comfort.

Air Force Veteran Cristina Lozada said "This event provided an outlet for these veterans to be themselves and have fun in an environment with like-minded individuals. I saw firsthand how taking the time to give back really impacted these veterans lives by feeling cared for and acknowledged."

While waiting their turn to choose their clothing from an attic full of free apparel, veterans partook in video games, card games, and Army vs Navy, and Air Force vs Marines chess games. Delicious pizza was available from nearby Reggio's Pizza which was sponsored by NJVNs partner JM Rodgers. With impressive skill, local barber Emilio of Signature Barbers of Elizabeth, NJ cut veteran's hair free of charge. Volunteers, vets, and family members all enjoyed themselves side by side while honoring our brave men and women.

When asked about the event, organizer Doc Schupp explained, "We wanted to make it a point to create an atmosphere where vets can have fun while receiving resources; this way instead of feeling anxious and uncomfortable, they are relaxed while speaking to service providers."

The Veteran Salute program had plenty of community support as representatives from the

MOVES program, Vet Center, VFW, American Legion and New Bridge Medical Center were on hand to talk to veterans. The atmosphere was a very relaxed as vets interacted with service providers over games and refreshments.

Camillo Vanegas of the MOVES program was on hand to discuss their veteran job placement program. American Legion Commander Dennis Duddie listened respectfully to veterans' stories and advised them of various local programs. The Vet Center was on hand to answer questions about counseling and case management. Bergen New Bridge Medical Center set up a table explaining their many veteran assistance programs. FDU's internship program.

Volunteers included the Union High School ROTC, 5-year-old Vickie Almanazar volunteered alongside her father Daniel, Army veteran Uncle Homer, and many more served food, helped with clothing distribution, entertained, or just visited with the veterans while listening to their stories.

Army recruit Miss Matias, who was shipping out to basic training shortly, was on hand to volunteer and shared her thoughts, "The Veterans Salute event was so successful. We helped a lot of people and touched so many lives. Sometimes all a person needs are a warm smile and friendly conversation to take their mind of their troubles, even if only for a moment."

ABOUT NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK

We are a group of veterans and volunteers dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live better lives. Our mission is to identify veterans and connect them with resources and programs designed to meet their unique set of needs. If you are interested in joining our team, would like us to speak at your event, or contribute to our mission, call 973-332-1556 or email mdbollio@optonline.net. To learn more visit njvn.org



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FOLLOW THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE TO THE CEREMONY

Submitted by Don Sweeney, Member of the Memorial Day Committee and Cranford 86 Project.

On May 30th, 1918, one year after losing 15 of its young men to what was known then as The Great War, the Cranford VFW organized and conducted our town's first Memorial Day Parade. Since then, steadfastly, despite weather or pandemic, the Township of Cranford never fails in its observance of this important holiday. Attendance numbers at the parade and ceremony have varied widely throughout the years. After WWII when our small town suffered the loss of 57 young citizens in a short four year period, newspaper reports note that the crowds swelled to over 5000. To many Americans, the importance of Memorial Day has become distorted to symbolize solely the beginning of summer. The lure of summer activities has created a powerful competitor to attendance at a patriotic gathering conducted at a possibly hot and uncomfortable outdoor venue, with no pool in sight. As a Boy Scout leader throughout the years 2008 through 2015, I observed a reasonably large crowd along the parade route. But, by the time the post-parade ceremony was organized and started, only a very sparse scattering of retired citizens along with the parents of the high school band, choir, and Girl and Boy Scouts were in attendance as the band started to play and the choir started to sing.

In 2016, a campaign began to encourage the parade watchers to "Follow the Parade to the Ceremony". It was this year too, that the Cranford 86 project began, revealing the individual life stories of the men whose names were read each year off the granite monuments, that stand on Springfield Avenue. That year it rained all day, and the parade was cancelled. The Memorial Day ceremony was held in the lobby of the Cranford Community Center. To our delight, the room was packed, standing room only. It seemed that the lawn signs that were placed around town calling people to "Follow the Parade to the Ceremony" had worked, despite the lack of a parade. In 2017 we continued the campaign, each month another Cranford 86 profile was delivered to the door of each home in town via the Cranford Monthly newspaper. Leading up to Memorial Day that year, spirits were high to see how many would be in attendance. We had hoped that the trend of the growing swell of attendees would continue and fill the field of Memorial Park, but as the old Yiddish adage states, "Man Plans, and God Laughs." The skies opened on Memorial Day again and the parade was cancelled for a second year in a row. That year at the community center we moved into the large basketball court/auditorium room. It was standing room only again, but even more than the previous year. People were standing in the driveway outside the building, trying to hear the speeches and the reading of the 86 names. Again, we felt that the idea of "Follow the Parade to the Ceremony" was catching on. We thought, if only we had a parade, the crowd for the ceremony would be tremendous. In 2018 and

2019 we were able to have our parade and ceremony as usual. The field at Memorial Park was full, far from the 5000 that attended in 1946, but an impressive crowd of patriotic supporters, nonetheless. Cranford parade fans were awakening to the significance of Cranford's Memorial Day Ceremony. When I heard people saying that they planned on following the parade to the ceremony, it was music to my ears.

So, after two years of the Covid-19 protocols which had either cancelled or limited the scope of our parade and ceremony, 2022 has allowed us to return to our original format of years past. We hope that the momentum of increasing crowd attendance can pick up where we left off.

This year we have two members of the Cranford 86 honor roll, Arthur Galvin and Dean



(above) Cranford VFW Post 335's well-drilled color guard, proudly marches the colors down Central Avenue as they approach Memorial Park to begin the yearly post-parade ceremony. Leading the Color guard is Brauleo Lorenzo, followed by (l-r) Jay Boxwell, Jim Silkensen, Col. Drew Burns and Jim D'Arcy.



(above) This float has been part of Cranford's Memorial Day Parade since the 100th anniversary of Cranford VFW Post #335 in 2020. Here it rolls up Walnut Avenue carrying Grand Marshal from 2021, Mark Schwartz, his wife Sharon and several VFW Hometown Heroes. The float was previously owned by the Masonic Lodge in Cranford and had been a part of the parade for decades.

Elichko, who will have their banners unveiled. We have been promised that members of their families will be in attendance. The latest tribute books and other Cranford 86 tribute items will also be available. Many current and former residents have stated, that the way that our town honors our fallen heroes on Memorial Day, is at the top of their list as to why they love Cranford. If you are new to "New Jersey's Number One Downtown", or if you are a lifelong resident who has somehow missed this important Cranford tradition, we encourage you this year, to bring your family, friends and neighbors to the parade route on Memorial Day morning. After the parade passes you, pick up your chairs and "Follow the Parade to the Ceremony".

Our parade starts at 9:00am in front of the Cranford Community Center at 220 Walnut Avenue, meanders through town, ending at Memorial Park on Springfield Avenue via Central Avenue. Led from the bunting-draped review stand alongside of Crane's Ford, for which our town is named, the ceremony starts at 10 am and usually wraps up by 11:00. You are promised a community-spirited morning that encompasses the true meaning of Memorial Day.

The experience may leave you a bit sad, but you will be truly grateful that you live in a town that respects those who thought no price was too high to pay for living in freedom as we do in Cranford, NJ.

We look forward to seeing you all on the morning of May, 30th, Memorial Day 2022.

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6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000	\$2200
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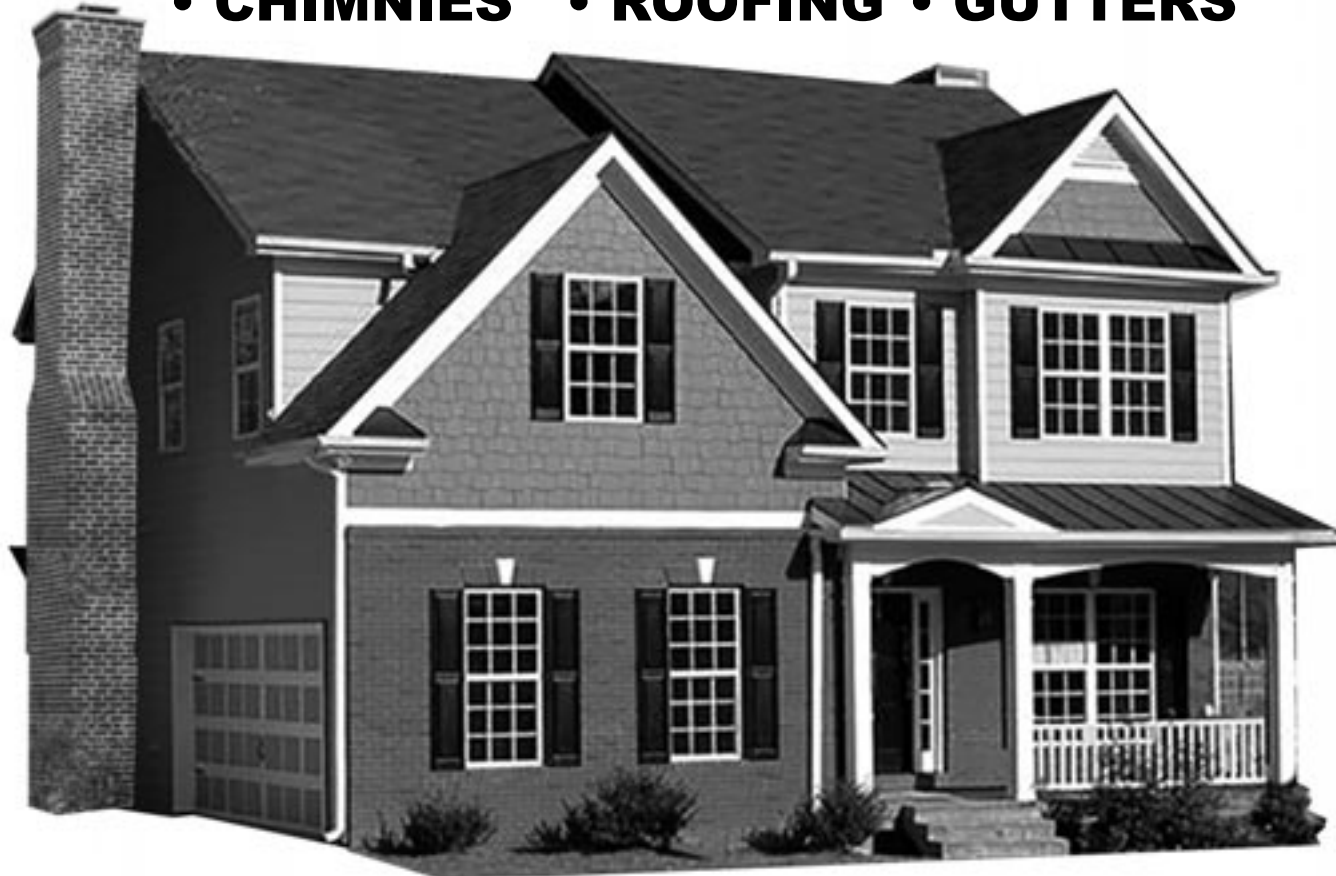
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