

# CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ

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## FUN-DRAISER FOR FOSTER YOUTH

*Submitted by Isabela Bello-Zap*

May began with good news for foster youth involved in the Union County child welfare system: they have the support of their peers. Four Girl Scouts from Cranford and Elizabeth partnered with local businesses to create a fundraising event in which all proceeds were directed to Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County. Girl Scouts Natalie Kastin of troop 40222, Maddie Litterio of troop 40013, Olivia Torsone of troop 40013, and Elizabeth McMullen of troop 40013 hosted a Sunday Funday event on May 1st, 2022 as part of their Silver Award Project to make a difference for youth aging out of the child welfare system in their community.

For the older youth involved in the child welfare system, aging out can be extremely challenging as they face transitions in many areas of their lives, whether that be in their education, housing, employment, or others. Any support provided to them by friends, CASA volunteers, or their community is welcome in order to facilitate their successful transition from involvement in the child welfare system to independent living and learning. These four Girl Scouts are great examples of how taking action can directly impact one's life positively and change the course of their journey. Their Sunday Funday event, full of games, face-painting and fun activities, raised \$900 worth of gift cards that will be given to youth aging out of the system.

Looking back, all the Girl Scouts had different reasons for choosing to support CASA of Union County. Kastin notes, "I wanted to support CASA to help with some of the great things they do." Chiming in, Litterio states "I wanted to support CASA, specifically teens in foster care, so they know there are other teens and peers in Union County that are there to help them." Similarly, Torsone notes "We selected this project to help teens just like us, so they know they are not alone." McMullen states, "As a Girl Scout we should reach out to those in need, especially kids. It's important to support organizations like CASA to keep them viable."



(above) Girl Scouts Natalie Kastin, Maddie Litterio, Olivia Torsone, and Elizabeth McMullen

Courtesy photo

We have their example to follow in lending a helping hand to improve the lives of those in our communities. CASA of Union County's role as the only nonprofit serving as extra eyes and ears for the court inside resource homes, serves to empower and support the 1,468 youth involved in the local child welfare system due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment.

To learn more about CASA of Union County, secure a seat in an upcoming training class, and for other ways to Change a Child's Story, contact [info@casaoofunioncounty.org](mailto:info@casaoofunioncounty.org).



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Cranford Monthly

#### Cranford Knights of Columbus

During a Celebration of Life held on Sunday, April 24th for Edith Coogan, who passed away earlier this year, the Cranford Knights of Columbus donated \$2,000 to Raphael's Life House (RLH), an organization that the Cranford Council has supported financially and in many other ways since opening its doors in 1993.

The Cranford Council also had a close and long-standing relationship with Edie and her husband Jack who were long-time parishioners and volunteers in many ministries at St. Michael's Church.

Edie started Raphael's Life House with her friend Mary Orrico, and they transformed an abandoned convent into a real home where homeless pregnant mothers could live for a year with their new babies. Since opening its doors, RLH has helped and assisted over 700 new families.

In 2013, RLH joined with Covenant House New Jersey and currently provides a safe haven for young families. The Cranford Council has and will continue to help and support this worthy organization.

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

wide, and nationally and is committed to be a viable part of our community. For information about joining the Cranford Council, please contact our Grand Knight Jerry Conheeney at 908-416-3464 or visit the Council web site at [cranfordknights.org](http://cranfordknights.org).



(above, l-r) Edith 'Edie' Coogan

Courtesy photo

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## GARWOOD ROCKS! JUNE 5

Garwood is revving up to rock out and enjoy a full day of family fun, with this year's event being held in its normal schedule, Sunday, June 5, 2022, from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. (rain or shine) in downtown Garwood.

Garwood Rocks! features a classic car show hosted by "Hot Rod Mike" which is expected to draw over 100 cars this year, in addition to an all-day live stage, entertainment, vendors, and festival food including many local area favorite food trucks. Artisans and craftspeople will display paintings, pottery, photography, handmade jewelry, furniture, and many other unique gifts. The Crossroads will once again sponsor the Beer & Wine Garden and provide the main entertainment at the Garwood Rocks main stage. This year we have three featured bands, Algonzo Inc. at 2 p.m.; The Funktion

Band at 3:30 p.m. and headliner, 4 Flight Rock at 5 p.m. A fun day for the whole family and admission is free!

"The family-friendly Garwood Rocks! festival is a great example of Garwood's close-knit community," said Adam Pasternack, President of Russo Property Management. "This is one of the best events Union County has to offer and we were delighted to support last year's much anticipated return, which drew thousands of excited music, classic car and food enthusiasts to downtown Garwood. We're excited to be on board once again at a time when our Vermella community in town is welcoming new residents every day who are enjoying all that Garwood has to offer."

Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce For over 74 years, GWACC (the Greater

Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce) has been connecting commerce and community. The GWACC promotes the economic prosperity of businesses primarily in Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield. It is the largest association of businesses and nonprofits in our area. Members include business owners, professionals, managers, and operators. Membership cultivates the opportunity to build relationships, partner, make referrals, increase business, attend lunch, and learns, and support the community. For more information about the GWACC, visit [www.gwaccnj.com](http://www.gwaccnj.com). You can also call the office at 908-233-3021 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Our office is now located at 212 Lenox Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090.

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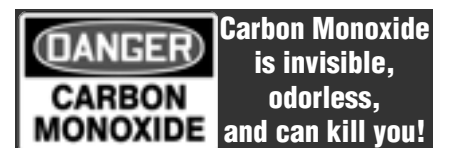
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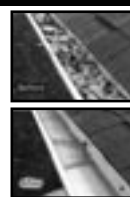
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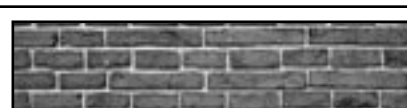
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'From Cranford to Ukraine with Love Concert' will be held on June 4 from 4 -8 p.m. (Rain date June 12.)

Please join Cranford Community Connection, the organization that brings you Porchfest, for an evening of music at Roosevelt Park Cranford (Orange Avenue). Gather with your friends and neighbors for this family-friendly event to support the people of Ukraine. Bring a blanket, chairs and a picnic.

We are excited to announce our bands: Binge, Kevin Harrison and True North, as well as Cumbersome the BAND.

The suggested donation is \$10 per person or \$20 per family. Donations are accepted via Eventbrite.com: Cranford to Ukraine with Love Concert .

All proceeds will go to Razom for Ukraine and other local verified groups that accept medical supplies and humanitarian aid donations.

Follow Cranford Community Connection on Facebook.



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For more information, visit the Mobile Meals website at [mobilemealsofwestfield.org](http://mobilemealsofwestfield.org) or call 908-233-6146.



(above) Ruth Maloney, Mobile Meals of Westfield President.

Courtesy photo

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## EARLY WORKS

Denali and Wonder Lake, Denali National Park, Alaska, 1947.  
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## VOLUNTEERS SWORN IN AS ADVOCATES FOR LOCAL FOSTER YOUTH

### CASA of Union County

The latest classes of community members to step up and train as advocates for Union County foster youth have officially taken their oath before Union County Superior Court Judge Lara DiFabrizio and become the newest volunteers with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County.

Since 2005, the nonprofit has recruited, trained, supported and supervised nearly 600 community volunteers to advocate for more than 950 such youth, protecting best interests and ensuring needs are met in the courtroom, classroom and community. As caseworkers, foster placements and schools can change frequently, CASA volunteers often are the only consistent, caring adult in a youth's corner, helping ensure already experienced trauma is not exacerbated as youth await permanency in a safe and loving home.

Judge DiFabrizio presided over two swearing-in ceremonies via Zoom and, prior to asking each to repeat their oath "to protect, respect, and report," she shared appreciation and gratitude for the new advocates' desire to make a lasting positive impact on youth in the community. "I like to thank CASA volunteers who take on this very important role. You do this because you want to make a difference in a child's life and make the world a better place. The court is grateful and thankful. You have a special opportunity to seriously help a child and family live and succeed. You're part of the village now."

The 14 new CASA volunteers are Jackie Parker and Lynda Sun Lee of Berkeley Heights; Loretta Masterson and Katherine (Katie) Rabecki of Cranford; Dina Ghazi of Kearny; Ana Gutierrez of Basking Ridge; Janae Bunn of Linden; Julia Dranishnikov and Tamiah Chester of Scotch Plains; Philip Ross of Summit; Lila Monroe and Mark Papa of Roselle; and Robert Mallard and Roya Enayati Basu of Union. Next, each advocate will be matched to a youth or sibling set, and begin putting their 30-hour

training into practice.

Anyone passionate about making a difference in a child's life can apply to volunteer; there is no prior experience or special background needed to serve as an advocate. Each undergoes a thorough training process and is supported by CASA staff throughout their work. Successful advocates have varied life experiences and these classes are no exception, as professional backgrounds include education, business, social work, law, and health management.

Upon being court-ordered to a case, CASA

volunteers have access to the youth's foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists, and teachers and, through regular child visits, identify and report to the judge any concerns and needs. CASA of Union County is the only nonprofit serving as extra eyes and ears for local judges hearing cases of youth from birth to age 21 in the child welfare system.

To learn more about CASA of Union County, secure a seat in an upcoming training class, and for other ways to Change a Child's Story, contact [info@casaoofunioncounty.org](mailto:info@casaoofunioncounty.org).



(above) The 14 new CASA volunteers include Loretta Masterson and Katherine (Katie) Rabecki of Cranford.

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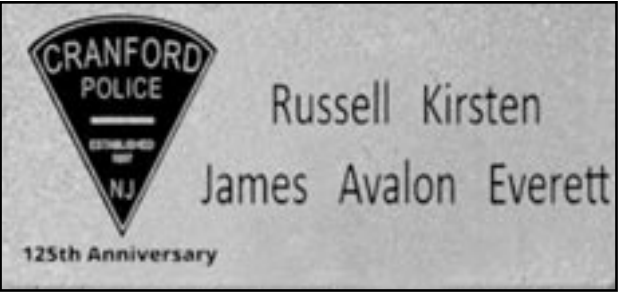
As the Cranford Police Department continues to celebrate its 125th Anniversary this year – March 27th, 1897 – the department has launched a 125th Anniversary Commemorative Brick Sale. Ending This Summer!

Residents may purchase a commemorative brick honoring active and past members of the organization, or simply showing support of the organization during this celebration year. These bricks will be part of a commemorative project to be completed in 2022.

Each 4” x 8” Brick includes up to two lines of text with 21 characters per line (including spaces). All bricks will include the Department 125th Anniversary logo. Logo and text will be arranged on the brick based on best fit and the brick-designer will reach out with any design questions if the need arises. Upon submitting your order, those placing orders will be redirected to the Cranford PBA’s website to remit an online payment. Each commemorative brick costs \$100, and proceeds will offset the cost of completing the entire dedicatory project slated for this year.

To order a commemorative brick, visit [bricksengraving.squarespace.com/cranford-pd](http://bricksengraving.squarespace.com/cranford-pd) or visit our free Cranford PD app and click on "125th Anniversary Brick Sale". If you do not have internet access, call Lt. Matthew R. Nazzaro, 908-709-4313, and he will facilitate you through the ordering process.

An accredited law enforcement agency since 2006, the 53-officer highly-specialized municipal police agency consists of a Patrol Division, Investigative Division, Community Support Services Division, Training Division, Detective Bureau, Juvenile Bureau, Traffic Bureau, Records Bureau and a Community Outreach Unit. Earlier this year, the Cranford Police Department was awarded reaccreditation through the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP), confirming the organization’s dedication to optimal law enforcement professionalism.



*(above) Brick sale is ending this summer. To order a commemorative brick, visit [bricksengraving.squarespace.com/cranford-pd](http://bricksengraving.squarespace.com/cranford-pd) or visit our free Cranford PD app and click on "125th Anniversary Brick Sale". If you do not have internet access, call Lt. Matthew R. Nazzaro, 908-709-4313, and he will facilitate you through the ordering process.*



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

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

- Patricia G.

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

- Perry O.

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- Question L.

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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](http://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.

**CDC Theatre presents**

# A BRONX TALE

## The Musical

Based on the play by

**Chazz Palminteri**

Music by

**Alan Menken**

Book by

**Chazz Palminteri**

Lyrics by

**Glenn Slater**

June 10-25 Fri/Sat 8pm  
June 19 Sun 2pm



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[cdctheatre.org](http://cdctheatre.org)



Produced by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing ([www.broadwaylicensing.com](http://www.broadwaylicensing.com))  
Made possible by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs,  
a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

# CRANFORD TROOP 80 BOY SCOUTS VISIT PHILADELPHIA

*Submitted by Caren Villarreal*

Approximately 30 Boy Scouts from Troop 80 in Cranford visited Philadelphia for their annual overnight History Trip. The Scouts visited several sites of historical significance, including the National Constitution Center, the Betsy Ross House, and the Museum of the American Revolution. They participated in an all-day seminar at the National Constitution Center in which they met with members of local and federal law enforcement, including an FBI agent, to learn about the Constitutional rights and freedoms of Americans. They also took a mock citizenship test to determine if they had what it takes to become a naturalized citizen as well as

participated in a mock trial of the Three Little Pigs v. The Big Bad Wolf.

However, the most fun came at night when the scouts participated in a ghost tour around Philadelphia's Historic District. According to 6th grade scout Matthew Surmay, "I enjoyed the ghost tour the most. We were walking around in the dark and we looked at old graveyards."

Scouts who participated in the trip ranged from from 6th grade to 12th grade and had the opportunity to earn three important Merit Badges which are critical to their Pathway to Eagle journey. More importantly, they had fun, bonded and shared in learning some of the important history of our country.



(above) Scout Gus Mortimer had the opportunity to role play the Judge in the murder trial of the Big Bad Wolf.

Courtesy photos



(above, l-r) Griffin Geis, Thomas Villarreal, Teddy Geraghty, Nico Tereza, James Mooney and Ryan Connolly.



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# MEET MOTOR MACHINIST MATE 3RD CLASS STEVE ROSICH, U.S. NAVY SEABEES, ONE OF CRANFORD'S 86

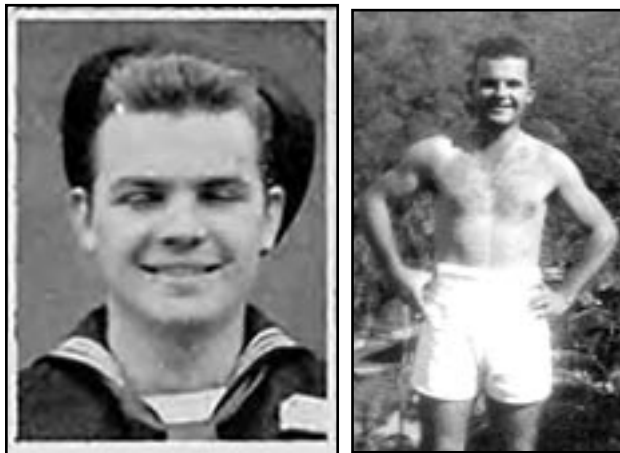
Written by Janet Cymbaluk Ashnault, Edited by Don Sweeney, Research by Stu Rosenthal, and Military Proofreading by Vic Bary

This month, the Cranford 86 project is honoring the memory of Steve Rosich, Motor Machinist's Mate 3rd Class (MoMM3c), Seabees. Steve grew up at 232 and 480 Dietz Street, in the small neighborhood located at the end of Myrtle Street on the outskirts of Cranford, near the Roselle/Linden border. Through the years, kids from these couple of isolated blocks of town tended to hang out together and remain close. Normally, my job with the Cranford 86 project is editor and Facebook administrator. When Don Sweeney weaves his heartfelt and informative narratives, I smooth out his words a bit and then share them with everyone on Facebook. Several years ago, while looking through family photos with my father, Myron Cymbaluk, I came across a photo of a handsome sailor posed on a classic Indian motorcycle. When questioned, my father told me it was Steve Rosich (pronounced RAH-sik), who died in World War II. I was always struck when my parents told me about their friends from Cranford who they lost during that time, and learning of Steve was no exception. My immediate family along with my father's family all grew up in that Dietz Street neighborhood and for that reason, I have been honored with the task of writing Steve's story.

Steve Rosich was born on September 8th, 1921 to parents Walter and Slavka, who were Hungarian immigrants. When Steve came along, he joined two older siblings, George and Mary. George was a star athlete at Cranford High School. His expertise on the football field and basketball court was well documented and can be found described in the Cranford Chronicle archives. When Steve's sister Mary married Frederick Schmidt, she stayed close to home and began her new life in a house in that same Cranford neighborhood. I was told that the house that the Rosichs lived in was moved a short distance as a result of construction of the Garden State Parkway. Steve attended Cranford Schools, from Lincoln Elementary, on up.

Like many young boys, Steve was interested in cars and motorcycles and it was said that as a youngster, he got hold of a motorcycle that wasn't much more than wheels and a frame. In a quest to feel the wind in their hair, he and his friends all took turns pushing each other around on the bike. When he eventually got his driver's license, he must have still felt the need for speed, as we found two articles in the Cranford Chronicle archives that us told of some fender-benders in which 19-year-old Steve was involved. In one, he overturned his vehicle, reported to be a Model A pickup truck, on Centennial Avenue! At some point in his young life, he earned the nickname "Spike"

1941 found Steve working as a mechanic at Tony Savino's National Super Service Garage, 367 Centennial Avenue. I was lucky enough to speak to two nonagenarians from Cranford, who as young boys, knew and admired Steve Rosich. My uncle, Willie Cymbaluk, whose childhood home was on Dermody Street and Norman



(above, right) The photographer for the 30th Construction Battalion Cruise Book caught Steve Rosich with his eyes closed, but he is a handsome sailor, nonetheless. (left) Steve Rosich, serving with the 30th Seabees Construction Battalion, is dressed for the weather in Trinidad, where he was stationed at the time.



With its drive-through canopy, arched windows, stucco and tile, the National Super Service is where Steve Rosich was employed. It was located at the southeast corner of Myrtle St. and Centennial Ave. Photo courtesy of Kim Christensen.

Hobbie from Winans Avenue, both told me stories and attested to the character of Spike Rosich. Norman Hobbie was so inspired by the relationship that he had with Steve that he included the following anecdote in a book that he wrote about his family history titled, The First 100 Years. Norman Hobbie writes: "Periodically, I would take my pile of used comic books to the service station where Spike (Steve) Rosich worked. It was a few blocks from Winans Avenue on the corner of Centennial and Myrtle Avenues. Steve would rifle through the pile of books, pick out a few, and then give me a quarter. (That was a lot of money in the early 1940's!) Spike was kind, patient and protective. On occasion, someone at the service station would point at me, growling, "You, kid. Scram. We're busy." Spike would immediately intercede and say "Hey, he's with me." Norman Hobbie stated how disappointed he was when Steve "left for the Service" which occurred when 21-year-old Spike Rosich, as so many brave Americans did in this era, left the comforts of home to enlist in the military during a World War.

Before actively entering WWII, the U.S. was racing to build naval and air bases at strategic locations throughout the world. One such place was Wake Island, a tiny atoll in the western Pacific. On Wake Island, over 1,200 civilian contractors were employed for construction of a military base. Just hours after the Pearl Harbor



Steve Rosich visiting friends at the National Super Service while home on furlough. He is seated on his beloved Indian motorcycle and left for Europe at furlough's end.



A young Willie Cymbaluk (seated on bicycle) is visiting the National Super Service garage. He is posed next to the Indian motorcycle of his friend Spike Rosich. On the motorcycle, is Anthony Savino Jr., son of the garage owner. Photo courtesy of Kim Christensen.

attack, Wake Island was bombed and after a 2-week battle, where the civilians took up arms with the Marines, it fell to the Japanese. Many of the civilian contractors were killed or injured and some were taken prisoner for the entire duration of the war. The need for a militarized naval construction force that was able to operate within the war zone and defend itself was self-evident. On December 28, 1941, Rear Admiral Ben Moreell requested specific authority to recruit men from over 60 different construction and engineering trades for assignment to a Naval Construction Regiment composed of three Naval Construction Battalions (initials "C.B.s") Taking their designation from these initials, this is how the U.S. Navy Seabees came to be. Their official motto: Construiamus, Batuimus -- "We Build, We Fight." was furnished to them by Admiral Moreell himself.

With his mechanical skills, it seemed a natural fit that Steve became a part of the newly-created

(continued on page 16)

## STEVE ROSICH - ONE OF CRANFORD'S 86 (continued from page 15)

Seabees. He was assigned the rank of Motor Machinist's Mate, which is described as someone who "Operated, maintained and repaired gasoline and diesel internal combustion engines and auxiliaries". Additional duties included, working with machine tools, planning engine repairs and overhauls, as well as standing watch and supervising in engine rooms.

At Seabee Training Centers, recruits were taught how to adapt their civilian construction skills to military needs. In addition, they were trained in military discipline and the use of light arms. Typically, there would be three weeks of basic training after which a construction battalion would be formed. Unless there was an immediate need for the unit overseas, they would then be sent for six weeks of advanced military and technical training. During this time their battalion would undergo staging and outfitting before shipping out.

Steve became part of the 30th Construction Battalion and was stationed in the British West Indies on the island of Trinidad. German submarines had been detected in the waters surrounding Trinidad, intent on attacking Allied shipping, hence the need for a military presence in this area. A photo shared with us by Steve's nephew, Don Rosick, shows a smiling, shirtless Steve, wearing shorts with a background of palm trees. Further evidence of Steve's service on Trinidad was discovered by me. Once again, I was looking through a box of family photos and came upon a few old ID cards that were once kept in my father's wallet. Between the cards I spotted some foreign currency which turned out to be from Trinidad and Tobago. After carefully unfolding the well-creased bill, I noted that my father had written in the margin, "From Spike Rosich U.S.N.R. 1943". I found it touching that my father obviously had carried this memento, given to him by a friend from the old neighborhood, for quite some time.

Although a request was made to the National Archives to obtain Steve's records, we have not

yet received a response. Obtaining military records is a lengthy process to begin with and Covid-19 shutdowns have slowed the process down even more. Through these records I wanted to confirm something that I had heard from two sources, that Steve volunteered for active duty in Europe. Hearing stories and reading about Steve, I got the sense that he was a bit of a daredevil. When I asked Norman Hobbie about that, he responded, "Perhaps, but quietly so, without any exhibition of bravado".

Returning back home to Cranford after his tour in Trinidad, Steve enjoyed a 31 day furlough. Photos document him in uniform, visiting friends at the National Super Service and posed on his beloved Indian motorcycle. Uncle Willie, who was eight years younger than Spike, was a student at Cranford High School during that time. One day while walking home from the high school, young Willie Cymbaluk reached the corner of South and Centennial Avenues. Spike Rosich, apparently out enjoying his R & R, pulled up on his motorcycle and offered Willie a ride home. Well, what kid would say no to that? Uncle Willie told me that he got the ride of his life and he doesn't believe that the wheels touched Centennial Avenue once between South Avenue and the old Winfield circle. Describing Steve as "A heck of a nice guy", on Memorial Day 2020 Uncle Willie was very proud to host the Gold Star flags of both Steve Rosich and Anton Hascek at his home on Dietz St. He said it was the most memorable Memorial Day of his 91 years, "honoring two friends from the neighborhood who gave their lives for me".

That month spent in Cranford must have just flown by for Steve. He was now with the 28th Construction Battalion which departed Davisville Naval Construction Battalion Center in Rhode Island on April 19, 1944. As he had requested, Steve was off to Europe. That June, on D-Day, the battalion was distributed between several port cities in the U.K. The Germans foresaw that the Allies would need the harbors and upon retreat,

they left them in ruins. Once France was liberated, restoring the port cities of Cherbourg and Le Havre gave the Seabees major projects. Battalion logs place the 28th at Cherbourg (code name Watson) in August of 1944. In the capable hands of the Seabees, it only took 11 days until the first cargo was able to be delivered to that port. Within a month, Cherbourg was handling 14 ships simultaneously. The 28th then moved on to Le Havre to repeat the exercise. It was during this time that the Rosich family received word that Steve was killed "while on duty in the service of his country". He died in an explosion on the beach at Le Havre, France and for the 25th time, the residents of Cranford would be in mourning as another son, brother, friend and classmate was lost in WWII. Norman Hobbie remembers that he was devastated when he heard the news. At the time of Steve's death, Steve's brother, George Rosich, was serving in the Navy as an Electrician's Mate 3rd Class and was stationed in Tennessee.

During the research for this story I learned that Steve had been buried in the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France. The 10,000 crosses there, are located high on a bluff overlooking Omaha Beach, and all face westward towards America. I felt sad that Steve was laid to rest so very far from his home in Cranford. But then, I learned of the Cadeville family. Before the Cranford 86 project had gathered any information about Steve, Bruno Cadeville, from France, had contacted the Cranford Historical Society inquiring about a Cranford serviceman named Steve Rosich. Exhibiting what I can only describe as a spirit of extreme gratitude and kindness of heart, Bruno and his family have been caring for Steve Rosich's grave since 2008. Several times per year they make a trip to the cemetery to honor his memory, meditate and pray for this American serviceman that helped to liberate their country from the tyranny of Nazi Germany. I was so

(continued on page 17)



(above) Hanging out at the National Super Service is owner Anthony Savino (holding tire) and Steve Cymbaluk (sitting on car fender) with 2 friends. Which one of them growled at young Norman Hobbie when he was visiting with his friend Spike?



(above, left) In 2008, at the dedication of the U.S. Navy Monument at Utah Beach, Bruno Cadeville and his family adopted the grave of Cranford's Steve Rosich. Since then, they visit the cemetery several times per year. (above right) A recruitment poster for the Navy Seabees whose motto is "CAN DO". The phrase, "With willing hearts and skillful hands, the difficult we do at once, the impossible takes a bit longer." is inscribed on the Seabees Memorial in Arlington, VA and pays tribute to the amazing capabilities of these skilled servicemen.



## STEVE ROSICH - ONE OF CRANFORD'S 86 (continued from page 16)

pleased to be able to provide the Cadevilles with images of Steve, something that they had been waiting to see for so many years. In turn, we were provided with emotional, yet charming photos of Bruno and his family at the cemetery. The images show Steve's resting place as an immaculate white cross, adorned with fresh flowers, draped with an American flag and surrounded by Bruno and his family members. What a comfort it is to know that fallen Americans like Steve have not been forgotten by the people of France.

The Cranford 86 project has been in contact with the family of both of Steve Rosich's siblings and we were pleased to be able to share with them the never-before-seen photos of their loved one. Don Rosick, son of Steve's brother George, lives in South Carolina with his wife Pat (Note that the spelling of the family name has changed slightly for ease of pronunciation). They were kind enough to sponsor Steve's banner which will be unveiled on Memorial Day 2022. We also have been in contact with Fred Schmidt, the son of Mary Rosich Schmidt. Fred's son Walter told us that his father would celebrate his uncle's birthday every year on September 8th. Sadly, since our first contact with the Schmidts, Fred

has passed away. We hope that he did so knowing that Cranford 86 would honor our promise and tell his uncle's story. We have invited the Rosich family to be with us on Memorial Day and thankfully, if travel is not possible, they will have the option to be able to watch the parade and ceremony on TV35.

Ernest Hemingway is quoted as saying "Every man has two deaths, when he is buried in the ground and the last time someone says his name. In some ways men can be immortal." Even though almost 80 years have passed since Steve Rosich died, those who knew him personally, remember him vividly and speak of him fondly to this day. Those of us who have just been introduced to Steve, now have the ability to do the same. Through caring family members, admiring friends, the grateful citizens of France and the steadfast Memorial Day traditions of the Township of Cranford, we truly hope that Steve Rosich, along with all of Cranford's 86, can indeed achieve immortality.

We are proud to say that, to date, the Cranford 86 project has completed the profiles of 36 of Cranford's 86 Hometown Heroes. When

researching for a story, our team seeks out information from many different sources. But by far, it is the input that we receive from a serviceman's family and/or friends that we value the most. The personal information, anecdotes, photos and physical mementos that are provided to us from those who really knew these men is what gives life to the profiles that we create. Please refer to the list of the Cranford 86 at [cranford86.org](http://cranford86.org). If you are a family member or a friend of one of these men, or you know someone who is, we really need your help. Please contact us by email at [info@cranford86.org](mailto:info@cranford86.org), Facebook Messenger (Cranford86), or call (908) 272-0876. We have 50 more names that we will not let be forgotten. There are 50 faces that are beginning to blur and need to be restored to clarity. On Memorial Day each year, as they have done since 1921, Cranford VFW Post 335 members read the names of the 86 men from Cranford that made the ultimate sacrifice. When each of those 86 faces has been presented, along with their stories, the Cranford 86 project's mission will be complete.

Banner sponsorships are still available, email [info@cranford86.org](mailto:info@cranford86.org) or call 908.272-0876.



*Carried for many years in the wallet of Myron Cymbaluk (also a WWII veteran), this bill was given to Myron by his friend "Spike" Rosich. It is a souvenir of Spike's first tour of duty with the Seabees in Trinidad. Note the writing in the margin.*



*Acknowledgement of Steve's sacrifice by President Roosevelt, courtesy of Walter Schmidt. Steve was awarded the European African Middle Eastern Campaign and American Campaign medals.*



*Willie Cymbaluk, currently 93 years old, is shown in a photo from Memorial Day 2020, when he brought the Gold Star flags of Steve Rosich and Anton Hascek back to the neighborhood in which these men grew up. Steve and Anton were both good friends of all the Cymbaluk brothers.*



*(above, left) It is heartwarming to witness the gratitude displayed by the Cadeville family, who has adopted the grave of Steve Rosich at the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France. Pictured is Bruno Cadeville and his son Theo at Steve's grave. (above, right) The Cadeville children have been taught about the sacrifices made by others so that we all could live in freedom.*

### HISTORIC CRANFORD AUDIO TOUR #10



### WORLD WAR I FLAGPOLE

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

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# 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CRANFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Submitted by Harry W. Wilde, Chief of Police (Retired)*

The Cranford Police Department is proudly celebrating 125 years of service to the community in 2022. It's been a long road that parallels and reflects the growth and progress of Cranford, society and the country. Cranford, as a community, throughout the years, has supported and taken pride in remembering those who served and contributed to our rich history and traditions. I hope you recognize and enjoy remembering some of the names mentioned.

In Cranford, policing was formally forged into existence in 1897. Law enforcement and crime fighting was delivered through an assortment of private organizations like the Cranford Thief Detecting Society. A prominent founder, E.K. Adams, was made a Captain and was sometimes referred to as the Chief of Police. An organization referred to as "The Protective and Improvement Association" was politically volatile and short lived.

An interesting and important footnote in the early days of Cranford law enforcement was attributable to the Cranford Historical Society's stellar research into the importance of Constable Joshua Bryant in the history of the Cranford Police Department. Constable Bryant was the first African American to hold public office in Cranford.

He was elected three times between 1883 and 1890. He lived on Mulberry Street (now Retford Avenue). He died in 1898 at the early age of 46, and according to research by the Cranford Historical Society, his funeral was reported to be one of the largest ever, at that time, in Cranford.

As the population grew, so did crime and the department.

Patrolmen, sergeants and others cycled in and out of department oversight until, in 1917, William Jennings was named Cranford's first police chief. He was also placed in charge of all sewer and street repair.

The Cranford Library has copies of the Cranford Police Department 100th Anniversary Centennial Book. It contains and preserves historical facts about the Cranford Police Department. In my 40 years in the department, I served under the command of three police chiefs beginning in 1963. This is my recollection of their contributions to the community.

First, I would like to introduce you to a local legend nicknamed "The Chief". He was Patrolman Frank Caruso.

A highlight of his career occurred one night when working the midnight shift. He stopped several hoodlums who had kidnapped a New Jersey Motor Vehicle Inspector (State Trooper). With no backup or walkie talkies to summon help, Officer Caruso marched the felons at gun point down the centerline of Springfield Avenue to police headquarters. Can you picture that? The trooper was later reported to be Dix Fetzer who became Bridgewater Township's first police chief. The legend continues.

Officer Caruso, as reported, was summoned to the Chief's office, congratulated on his great "collar" and asked how he would feel about being promoted to Sergeant. Frank hesitated and asked if he could be made Chief of Police instead. He was told that couldn't be done. According to those that carried the legend into history, Officer Frank Caruso told the Chief he didn't want to be a Sergeant. He wanted to be the Chief or nothing. He exited the Chiefs office, and from that day forward he was nicknamed and known as "the Chief". Frank would delight in telling the story about how he got his nickname to anyone who asked. He retired in 1958.

Lester W. Powell was the chief who appointed me in 1963.

He was a tall, trim, physically fit man with a crewcut and military bearing. He was articulate to a fault with perfect diction. He could easily be cast as a police chief in a Hollywood blockbuster.

He was ahead of his time when it came to police training and education. He developed professional Investigative and Traffic Divisions within the department. Chief Powell was a pioneer in mandating and requiring Police Academy basic training and certification before appointment. He was actively involved with the New Jersey State Police Chiefs association promoting standards for increasing professionalism and education for New Jersey Law Enforcement.

The Cranford Police Department was a leader in the development of Juvenile Justice in our town. A local resident George Ward had celebrity status in the sports world before joining the Cranford Police Department.

Ward volunteered many hours working with the youth of Cranford. Prior to joining the Cranford Police Department, Sergeant Ward was a nationally ranked boxer in the 20's.

He was nicknamed "Gentleman" Georgie Ward because of his smooth, classy boxing style. He had 115 professional fights and was a contender for the World Boxing Championship on several occasions. In a famous bout, he fought Mickey Walker in a championship fight that many people thought Ward won. He also had World Championship fights with Pete Latzo and Benny Leonard.

After retirement from boxing, he opened a gym on Centennial Avenue near Myrtle Street. He trained Gene Marino, Mayor Gene Marino's father and recently retired Lieutenant Craig Marino's grandfather. The senior Marino had an interesting career in boxing. He started by fighting a man in a carnival attraction, defeating him and earning five dollars. Marino returned a second night and won another five. He honed his skills under the tutelage of George Ward and became a Golden Gloves champion.

Gene Marino was inducted into the New Jersey Boxing Hall of Fame.

Ward became Cranford's first Juvenile Officer. He retired in 1960. George Ward also worked with Lieutenant Milton Mason. Mason won the New Jersey Golden Gloves Championship and became the commander of the Cranford Police Juvenile Bureau.

Chief Matthew T. Haney succeeded Chief Powell. He was promoted to Police Chief in 1967. Early in his tenure, he was a prime mover for raising the standard of education for law enforcement. He contacted friends and colleagues who were affiliated with Union College.

Haney, working with Dr. Ken Iverson, President, Mr. Roy Smith, Vice President, Professor Elmer Wolf, and Professor Farris Swackhamer, conceived and implemented a plan to establish a Criminal Justice Associate Degree program at Union County College. With additional help from the Union County Police Chiefs Association, the program was approved, established and is still successfully providing quality criminal justice education.

Chief Haney was a dynamic leader. He was very quick witted and tested political limits frequently, but never maliciously. During the riots and civil disorder of 1967, we sent four Cranford officers on a mutual aid agreement to Plainfield. Our men came under fire. Chief Haney was with Ed Gill, the police commissioner, when the call came in.

Chief Haney: "I'm going to Plainfield to be with my men." Ed Gill: "No, you're not." Chief Haney: without missing a beat, said, "Ed, have you been deputized for insurance purposes?" "No," said Gill.

Haney said, "I'm the emergency management coordinator and have the authority to deputize you." Haney then ceremoniously deputized the commissioner, saying, "now that I've deputized you, you work for me. I'm going to Plainfield." Gill said, "I don't think you can do that!" Haney's retort was, "see the Township Attorney on Monday; I'm going to Plainfield. Sergeant Wilde, let's go." Chief Haney and Commissioner/Mayor Gill became the best of friends.

The turbulence of the sixties and seventies led Chief Haney to establish the pulpit patrol with the help of Milton Mason, a CPD Police Lieutenant and ordained minister in the St. Mark's A.M.E. church on High Street. Cranford clergymen, through the Cranford Clergy Council, were given an opportunity to experience what patrolling the streets was like. They went on the road with patrol officers, responded to calls and witnessed first hand the the complexity of delivering quality police services. Lines of communication were established between the department and the community. Police/Community meetings were held to air grievances. The program was successful and adopted by other police departments.

It was Chief Haney's creative nature and thinking that enhanced the police department's stature and reputation.

Chief Robert A. Guertin comes from a legacy of public service. His father, Louis, was my Lieutenant in the patrol division. His brother, Ronald, was a Marine and Cranford Fire Department Lieutenant.

Chief Guertin was the consummate administrator. His appointment in 1979 came at a time when technology was exploding in business, industry and government, and the

new chief's talents as an administrator and leader played a pivotal role in the progress of the department toward professionalism. Chief Guertin kept himself and Cranford ahead of the curve. He chose talented staff and sent them to some of the leading edge police oriented computer technology schools in the state. Chief Guertin continued the pursuit of police training and education for his department.

No one I ever worked with was as good at creative government budgeting while simultaneously safeguarding the taxpayers interest and dollar.

Chief Guertin was a low key professional. As his media relations officer for a few years, I can tell you he was likely to avoid personal notoriety and shunned the spotlight.

That's not to say he couldn't hit it out of the park when he had to.

In 1991, the Cranford Police Department was consolidated with the Cranford Fire Department into a Department of Public Safety. Robert A. Guertin became the Public Safety Director, Arthur Kiamie was named Fire Chief and Harry Wilde became Cranford's 8th Police Chief. At his installation ceremony in 1991, Wilde said that technology, multiculturalism, global economies, terrorism and violent crimes are equations in a formula that represents, great concern, crisis, and opportunity. ....

law enforcement's response to the challenge is directly linked "not to the caliber of our weapons, but to the caliber of our police officers." Wilde said the police budget was 92% manpower intensive and that he intended to follow the the priorities clearly established by his predecessors Chief Powell, Chief Haney and Chief Guertin. Those priorities focused on education, training, entrance standards and the use of technology to optimize our most valuable resource... personnel.

Chief Eric Mason, Chief James Wozniak and Chief Ryan Greco carried the torch of progress into the 21st century, but, as I did not serve under their leadership, I will leave it to others who did, to elaborate in more detail on their tenures and achievements.

Regarding Chief Mason, I do know that his academic achievements were the standard by which others are measured. He earned a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice, graduated the FBI National Academy, and, completed the West Point Leadership and Command Program. He also served on the Board of Governors of Union County College and was President of the New Jersey State Police Association. Chief Mason also served as the Township's Business Administrator. No candidate for the Police Chief position was ever more prepared.

Chief James Wozniak had a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice. He had a career long interest in providing constructive youth activities and outlets. Chief Wozniak played a major role in the development of Cranford's wrestling prominence by volunteering many hours of his own time. For certain, the volunteers and athletes who have worked in PAL programs should not go unrecognized. Thousands of Cranford kids have passed through PAL programs that consistently offer constructive outlets and positive experiences between police officers and the youth of Cranford.

While I did not work under Chief Greco's administration, I have witnessed a low key, focused leader who has guided today's CPD through unprecedented challenges, exacerbated by dynamic social, economic changes and tempered by occasionally rogue technology. Technology when weaponized and used maliciously with corrupt criminal intent can threaten our way of life. Chief Greco is the perfect leader and communicator to lead the department and the community through these obstacles.

He will make Cranford a safer, better place to live, prosper and raise a family.

Chief Greco has used all the technical and proven tools at his disposal to insure public support. He has maintained a high degree of professionalism in his appointment of quality candidates for police service that insure Cranford's quality police service for the future.

Finally, the men and women who serve the community's public safety interests are the backbone of the Cranford Police Department's history and tradition. They are and have truly been "The finest of the finest."

- Harry W. Wilde Chief of Police (Retired)



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## MARK SCHWARTZ TAKES THE HELM OF VFW

*Jim D'Arcy, Cranford VFW Post #335*

The Cranford VFW Post #335 held its annual installation of officers on Tuesday, May 4th, 2022 at its Veterans Memorial Home in Cranford with local resident Mark Schwartz being formally installed as the new Post Commander. "I am so proud to follow in the footsteps of so many past commanders that have done so much for the veterans in the greater Cranford area. It is truly an honor to be elected for this position," expressed new Commander Schwartz.

Also installed in the program were Michael LaCombe as Senior Vice Commander, Michael Gregory as Junior Vice Commander, James Silkensen continuing as Chaplain and Jay Boxwell will serve as Quartermaster. Trustees John Morrison, Mark Pollock and Jay Price were also installed that night.

Jay Boxwell, a former Cranford Post Commander, who will also become the prestigious NJ VFW Department Commander this June said of Schwartz, "It's great to see the younger, competent members like Mark step up

and take a leadership role in the Post. Mark's experience as a Marine and a small businessman will help him continue to move the VFW forward for the next generation of heroes."

Scwhartz spent 10 years in the Marine Reserve attaining the rank of sergeant while serving in both Kuwait and Operation Enduring Freedom in Iraq. He was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal, Presidential Unit Citation and multiple Certificates of Commendation while serving. "During my tenure as commander, I plan to raise enough money to do proper repairs and improvements to our Post building so that our veterans have a place in town to call home and to ensure that the Post will always be there for future generations of veterans, just like has been done here for the last 100 years," Schwartz

explained.

Commander Schwartz was the Grand Marshall of the 2021 Memorial Day Parade and gave a memorable, stirring speech at the park that day. He lives in Cranford with his wife Sharon and young daughter Margaret. He is a part owner of Advantage Vacuum LLC in Garwood.

Also, part of the installation program that night was the naming of the new slate of officers for the VFW Post Auxiliary. This year's officers as elected were, Sharon Waked, President; Diane McCracken, Senior Vice President; Kim Waked Junior Vice President; Noreen Cannone, Treasurer; Anne Vaccaro, Secretary; and Barbara Bilger named as a three-year trustee. Ken Tyrell who was elected as the conductor was not able to be part of the ceremony.

## COMMUNITY AWARDS NIGHT

*Jim D'Arcy, Cranford VFW Post #335*

It was quite a night at the VFW Post in Cranford on Wednesday, May 4th, 2022, as the annual Community Awards Night was held. A good crowd was on hand to witness recognition given out based on individual's contributions to the greater Cranford community or for special services to our veterans or veterans' issues.

Of special note was the Patriot Pen Awards which is an annual essay contest featuring local sixth to eighth grade students. The patriotic theme of this year's contest was "How can I be a good American". All three finalists were eighth grade students at Orange Avenue School and the judging proved to be a tough task as they all submitted wonderfully intelligent essays. The winner was Eliana Ruan, who received a great applause after reading her essay to the audience. The second and third place winners were Darby Canedo, and Elisabeth Wallin. All the winners received a cash prize as well as a certificate of appreciation.

Molly Walsh a student at Cranford High School won the VFW "Voice of Democracy" speech contest with her well-delivered entry on the topic "Where do we go from here?" Ms. Walsh received a cash prize and certificate of

appreciation as well.

The Cranford Policeman of the Year was given to Detective Ryan Gerrity for his professionalism and outstanding performance of his duties. The Cranford Fireman of the year was awarded to Robert Moran for his emergency CPR response in saving a citizen whose life was in danger due to a seizure. The Cranford Emergency Medical Technician of the year was Kent Lucas for his years of dedicated service to the Emergency Squad.

Teachers of the year in Cranford were also recognized at the ceremony, with Elementary School teacher Christine Eulas of Hillside Avenue School; Middle School teacher, Michael Seaman of Orange Avenue School; and Cranford High School teacher Marlene Soto, all being awarded for their inclusion of veterans causes and issues in their classroom curriculum.

The Cranford Scout of the Year was Joshua Schwartz of BSA Troop 75.

A special recognition was made to Julia Pinho of the popular Pinho's Bakery in Roselle for her continued support of the Cranford VFW Post and its activities. Her unselfish donations to the Post has made her and her business a Post favorite.





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## GARDEN TOUR JUNE 11

The Cranford Historical Society invites you to a Garden Tour on Saturday, June 11 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Seven gardens in Cranford will be featured. Proceeds will benefit the restoration of the Crane-Phillips House Museum Garden. Topiaries from Atlock Farm will be available for purchase at our hospitality house, the Crane-Phillips House Museum, 124 North Union Avenue, Cranford.

Tickets can be purchased for \$35 per person in advance or \$40 on the day of the event, cash or check payable to the Cranford Historical Society. Pick up your tickets and programs starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Crane-Phillips House Museum. Parking is available in the adjacent municipal lot.

We hope you will come support this fundraising event and enjoy a beautiful day.

Any questions, please call the Society's office at 908-276-0082,

email [cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net](mailto:cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net)

or visit our website at

[cranfordhistoricalsociety.com](http://cranfordhistoricalsociety.com).

## DUI SAFETY SIMULATOR AT CRANFORD HS

The Cranford Police Department Juvenile Bureau once again partnered with Cranford High School to present the Driving Under the Influence Safety Simulator for high school juniors and seniors on May 17th, 2022. This initiative is sponsored by the Prevention and Wellness Alliance – formerly the Cranford Municipal Alliance – which is a group of Cranford volunteers who focus on the health and well-being of Cranford's youth through educational and outreach opportunities.

According to the Pennsylvania DUI Association, inexperience is a leading cause of crashes among teen drivers. Since 2015, the Cranford Police Department Juvenile Bureau has worked to bring the Pennsylvania DUI Association's "Safety Simulator" to Cranford in advance of the prom and graduation season to demonstrate the negative effects of drug, alcohol, and distraction on teen drivers. The Safety Simulator - a large trailer containing an interactive "car" with real dashboard, steering wheel, driver's seat and surrounding screens - offers students the opportunity to experience the real-time effects of impairment on driving. The

Prevention and Wellness Alliance consistently sponsors this annual educational opportunity for graduating Cranford High School seniors in the hopes of enhancing students' understanding of substance abuse and its negative effect in decision-making.

In addition to the Safety Simulator, the Cranford Police Traffic Bureau allowed students to experience the "Drunk Buster" go-kart and goggles. Utilizing vision-distorting lenses, Drunk Buster goggles simulate the effects of alcohol and marijuana consumption on the body.

Chief Ryan J. Greco thanked the Prevention and Wellness Alliance and the Cranford Public Schools for allowing this educational opportunity to return annually to the Cranford High School during physical education classes. "In addition to thanking our partners in the Cranford Prevention and Wellness Alliance, I want to thank Principal Mark Cantagallo and his staff at Cranford High School for recognizing the value of bringing this interactive, real-world learning opportunity to Cranford's students," he said.

For more information on the Prevention and Wellness Alliance, visit [ourbestcranford.org](http://ourbestcranford.org).



Photo by Cranford Police Department

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## R U SMARTER THAN A 5TH GRADER?

### Cranford Rotary Club

On April 27, 2022 students from Cranford and Garwood had the opportunity to compete in an academic bowl sponsored by The Cranford Rotary Club. The competition was based on the popular television quiz show, and has become a yearly event. Garwood students were invited to join Cranford students at Orange Avenue School for this evening of friendly competition.

Here's what some contestants had to say about

the experience:

"It was really fun being on the stage together with my friend, Elizabeth. Everyone was a winner, along with the parents. And it was great to see our friends in the audience and the posters they made to cheer us on". - Feliciana Hansen

"I thought the event was really fun, and loved all the competition with the other students. The Rotary Club was so generous, and everyone was so kind." - Elizabeth Byron



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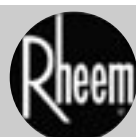
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## SUMMER PROGRAMS CRANFORD LIBRARY

### Summer Reading Challenge

*Monday, June 13th*

Get rewarded for reading this Summer! Registration for Cranford Public Library's annual Summer Reading Challenge begins on Monday, June 13th. Visit the Children's Department to enroll or register online at [cranfordlibrary.beanstack.com](http://cranfordlibrary.beanstack.com). Log your reading time from June 20th to August 12th. The more you read, the more carnival tickets you'll earn! Spend your tickets on games, crafts, fun activities, and prizes. Be sure to report all of your time by August 12th! In addition to logging reading, the library runs a variety of programs for children of all ages.

### Family Storytime

*Monday mornings at 10:00*

*July 11th through August 8th*

*Tuesday mornings at 10:00*

*July 5th through August 9th*

We'll be running a Family Storytime in the Children's Department on Monday mornings at 10:00 from July 11th through August 8th. We'll be running an outdoor Family Storytime at Hanson Park on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 from July 5th through August 9th. No registration is required for either program.

### Geronimo Stilton book club

*June 16th from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.*

Friends in grades 2-4 are invited to join us for a fun Geronimo Stilton book club! We will talk about Happy Birthday, Geronimo!, share silly jokes and make a Geronimo bookmark! The first six readers to register will receive a free copy of the book. This is an in-person program with a maximum of 10 participants.

Registration is required and can be done online: [www.eventbrite.com/e/geronimo-stilton-happy-birthday-geronimo-tickets-321532641787](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/geronimo-stilton-happy-birthday-geronimo-tickets-321532641787)

### Look & Find

*Thursday, July 7th from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.*

The library is calling all detectives to learn about the library and help find some missing items! Friends in grades K-2 are invited to join us for "Look & Find" @ the Library!

[eventbrite.com/e/look-find-the-library-tickets-320904813937](http://eventbrite.com/e/look-find-the-library-tickets-320904813937) or on Thursday, July 28th from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.: [eventbrite.com/e/look-find-the-library-tickets-320923971237](http://eventbrite.com/e/look-find-the-library-tickets-320923971237) This is an in-person program with a maximum of 10 participants.

### Game Day

*July 12th and August 9th at 4:00 p.m.*

Join us in the Cranford Community Center for Game Day! We'll be leading a few rounds of Bingo, participants are able to win prizes. This program is for children of all ages with a caregiver. No registration is required.

### Hello, Universe

*July 14th at 5:00 p.m.*

Friends in grades 3-5 are invited to join us to discuss Hello, Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly and play fun games! This novel celebrates bravery and being different! The first six readers to register will receive a free copy of the book. Registration is required and can be done online: [eventbrite.com/e/hello-universe-book-club-tickets-321542340797](http://eventbrite.com/e/hello-universe-book-club-tickets-321542340797) This is an in-person program with a maximum of 10 participants.

### Pajama Storytime

*Friday, July 15th from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.*

It's time to wear our pajamas and relax as we listen to a story in the library after it closes! Friends in grades K-2 are invited to join us for Pajama Storytime. Registration is required and can be done online: [eventbrite.com/e/pajama-story-time-tickets-320950480527](http://eventbrite.com/e/pajama-story-time-tickets-320950480527)

### Good Morning, Stella the Dog!

Let's get excited about reading! Sharpen your skills as you read to a dog. This is a virtual program, registration is required and can be done online: [eventbrite.com/x/good-morning-stella-the-dog-tickets-262281770837](http://eventbrite.com/x/good-morning-stella-the-dog-tickets-262281770837)

### Family Fort Night

*Friday, July 22nd at 5:15 p.m.*

Bring some sheets or blankets and a pillow—we'll supply the books—and stay in the library past close to create a fort to read in! Family Fort Night is happening. Registration is not required.

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# CRANFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY JUNE EVENTS

(908) 709-7272 • [cranfordlibrary.org](http://cranfordlibrary.org) • Address: 224 Walnut Ave, Cranford, NJ 07016  
Monday - Thursday: 10AM-9PM; Friday, Saturday: 10AM-5PM; Sunday: Closed

## The Roots of Black Music in America

Wednesday June 15 at 7 p.m.

Join us at the Cranford Community Center for producer, songwriter, teacher, and troubadour,

Karlus Trapp's delightful, educational and entertaining presentation, "The Roots of Black Music in America." It is a 100-year journey back through time, and offers a fresh perspective through song, story, and history to learn about the music of America's black musical giants. Hear Scott Joplin during the birth of Ragtime; dance to The Charleston in the 1920's; play air guitar with Chuck Berry; or sing along with the Supremes in the 60's in the motor city.

Warning: Attending this show you may find yourself smiling, humming, or tapping your feet for hours afterward...and you'll be surprised what you may learn. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. Registration is required.

## Debra's Simple Garden

Wednesday June 1 at 7 p.m.

Debra, the Cranford resident behind the Youtube series "Debra's Simple Garden," will talk to us about edible flowers. Not only are flowers beautiful in your garden, but some of these great beauties are also perfect in your kitchen. Learn about a few of your favorite backyard flowers that can be incorporated in salads, soups, baked goods, smoothies and desserts. Attendees will receive an edible flower seed packet and experience an edible treat. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Space is limited. Registration is required.

## David Aaron Trio

Thursday, June 9 at 7:00 p.m.

The David Aaron Trio is exciting, powerful, and perfectly captures the sound and look of the big bands from the Swing era. At the Cranford Community Center, hear America's classic sounds come to life. Clarinetist David Aaron started playing in the 1940s, as a young boy growing up in Irvington, NJ, and never stopped.

A performer and educator, he has brought multiple styles of music to audiences of all ages. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Registration is required.

## International Films

Monday June 13 at either 2 p.m. or 7 p.m.

Monthly International films are back! Join us at the Cranford Community Center for a film screening. Please contact the library as the date gets closer for the film title.

## Meet the Author: Robyn Gigl

Wednesday June 22 at 7 p.m.

Join us on Zoom. for an evening of conversation with author, attorney and activist Robyn Gigl. Robyn is the author of the Erin McCabe Mysteries, a legal thriller set in the Cranford-surrounding area. Her debut novel was called "quietly groundbreaking" by the New York Times. Robyn has been honored by the ACLU-NJ and the NJ Pride Network for her work on behalf of the LGBTQ+ community and currently serves on the board of the Garden State Equality. She has been named one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers in New Jersey for 2020 and 2021. Sponsored by the Libraries of Union County Consortium.

Registration is required.

## About the Declaration of Independence

Wednesday June 29 at 7 p.m.

Lecturer Joel Farkas will present about the Declaration of Independence from conception to celebration; the document and the day at the Cranford Community Center. Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library & Clark Public Library for our "Better Together" Library Program Series.

Registration is required.

## Live Theatrical Performance

Saturday June 11 at 2 p.m.

The Friends of the Cranford Public Library invite everyone to attend a live theatrical performance - from the safety and comfort of your living room. New Jersey's own Theater Project will present a virtual script-in-hand reading of an original short play. The reading will be followed by a question and answer session with the audience, director, playwright and cast. Join us on Zoom. Registration is required.

## Literary Café

Saturday June 11 at 10:15 a.m.,  
or attend online via Zoom!

Literary Café is a book chat program. The format is simple: Bring a few of your recent favorite books and tell the other members of the group what you like about them. There is no required reading, and you will have the opportunity to learn about books recommended by other group members. Join us at the Cranford Community Center. Refreshments sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. No registration required.

# CHILDREN'S BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Cranford Public Library is hosting its annual used Children's Book Sale, for Cranford Library cardholders and teachers! The sale will be held June 2 (3-8 pm), June 3 (1-5 pm), and June 4th (10 - 2 pm) and will have its largest inventory yet, including children, young adult, teacher-specific, and parenting books. Register to reserve your spot at [cranfordlibrary.org/friends.php](http://cranfordlibrary.org/friends.php). Cash or checks only. Masks are required for adults and children, as the shopping area is limited in space.

The Friends of the Cranford Public Library will also be hosting an all-inclusive used Book Sale, July 21 - 23. All are welcome. Registration is required and will be open after June 6 at [cranfordlibrary.org/friends.php](http://cranfordlibrary.org/friends.php). Cash or checks only. Masks are required.

Proceeds of sales benefit library programming and events for all ages throughout the year. These sales are not possible without your help! Book donations are appreciated and welcomed any time during library hours. Library staff at the front desk can help direct you.

Interested in becoming a Member of the Friends of the Library? Find out more at [cranfordlibrary.org/friends.php](http://cranfordlibrary.org/friends.php).



(above) QR code for registration

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## 52 MARATHONS IN 52 DAYS TO RAISE AWARENESS OF CLEAN WATER

Scotch Plains native, James Leitner, on June 1st will begin running a marathon a day for 52 days to bring attention to clean water issues in the United States. His goal is to raise \$100,000 for his nonprofit, MissionCleanWater which will complete three clean water projects in New Jersey and two in Uganda. Each day he will complete a marathon in iconic towns that has helped him grow his nonprofit organization.

“Running long distance is the best way to symbolize what people face without clean water. If a five-year-old has to walk 3-5 every day to get water for their family as a normal chore, I can symbolize their journey for just 52 days.”

James founded MissionCleanWater in the summer of 2018 and to date has assisted 6 communities and 5 schools in Uganda to gain access to clean water, which approximately helped 15,000 people. Since 2021, MissionCleanWater has been developing a plan to assist New Jersey communities dealing with lead and chemical contamination in their drinking water. Some communities are less than a 15-minute drive to Scotch Plains!

“I have had clean water my entire life, as I am

sure everyone reading this has as well. Imagine having no water in your home or your ability to buy bottled water wasn't possible. Or if your house had water but drinking it meant consuming carcinogenic chemicals that can lead to neurological issues. We can change the world and the communities we live next to together.”

To learn more, donate, and run with James, visit: [missioncleanwater.org/projectstateline](http://missioncleanwater.org/projectstateline).



(above) James running his last mile of 900 miles in 2019, with Cranford youth.

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