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CRANFORD MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Cranford's annual Memorial Day Parade was held on Monday, May 30th. Marine Corp veteran Braulio Lirenzo was the Grand Marshall. The parade was immediately followed by a ceremony at Memorial Park. Continued on pages 10 and 11.



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NATIONAL DOG BITE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

U.S. Postal Service

More than 5,400 postal employees were attacked by dogs in the United States in 2021. In New Jersey, there were 137 dog bites in 2020 which declined to fewer than 123 in 2021, knocking the state out of the top ten for incidents.

From nips and bites to vicious attacks, aggressive dog behavior poses a serious threat to postal employees and the public. To highlight the enormity of this serious issue, the U.S. Postal Service is providing information on the do's and don'ts of responsible dog ownership as part of its annual National Dog Bite Awareness Week public service campaign.

BEING A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER

Dog owners with friendly dogs often expect a friendly reaction from other dogs. However, even friendly dogs will bite, depending on the circumstance. Dogs are primarily territorial in nature and protective of their owners and their owners' property. Defending its territory sometimes means attacking — and possibly biting — the letter carrier. Dog owners are responsible for controlling their dogs. The best way to keep everyone safe from dog bites is to recognize and promote responsible pet ownership.

Most people know the approximate time their letter carrier arrives every day. Securing your dog before the carrier approaches your property will


minimize any dog-carrier interactions.

When a letter carrier comes to your home, keep dogs:

- Inside the house or behind a fence; Away from the door or in another room; or On a leash.
- Pet owners also should remind their children not to take mail directly from a letter carrier as the dog may view the carrier as a threat.
- Informed Delivery is a useful tool for dog-owning customers. It's a free service that gives customers a digital preview of the mail and packages that are scheduled to be delivered so that they can take precautions and secure their dog when parcels are delivered to the door. Sign up at informedelivery.usps.com.

"The Postal Service takes the safety of our employees as seriously as we take our commitment to delivering America's mail. Each year, nearly 6,000 employees are attacked by dogs while on their routes," said USPS Occupational Safety and Health Senior Director Linda DeCarlo. "Please deliver for us by being responsible pet owners and make sure your dogs are secured when our carrier comes to your mailbox."


Last year, many attacks reported by letter carriers came from dogs whose owners regularly stated, "My dog won't bite." Dog bites are entirely preventable. One bite is one too many.



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HAVE YOU GOT YOUR DUCKY?

Hanson Park Conservancy's 11th Annual Rubber Ducky Derby is scheduled once again for Sunday, October 9, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. On race day, over one thousand individually numbered rubber ducks will be released in the Rahway River at Sperry Park, Cranford NJ and tumble over the falls racing to the finish line at the North Union Ave Bridge. Numerous prizes for the fastest lucky duckies will be awarded. The top prize is a \$250 gift card.

Ducks can be purchased at two locations: Periwinkles, on North Union Avenue downtown Cranford, or the Cranford Canoe Club on Springfield Ave. Purchase a single Duck for \$5 or a flock of 5 ducks for \$20. Please secure your tickets early as ducks are limited, and the race has been known to sell out.

All proceeds benefit Hanson Park maintenance and educational programs. If you have not yet walked through this lovely little park, please visit this hidden gem located at 38 Springfield Ave.



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SOPHIA JOSEPH TO BE HONORED BY DAR

Submitted by Mary Leonard

The Cranes Ford Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution recently announced their Good Citizen Award would be presented to Sophia Joseph, a senior at Cranford High School. The high school senior selected must have the qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. The scholarship portion of the program consists of two parts. The student must describe how they have tried to manifest the qualities of a good citizen and secondly must write an essay on a topic chosen by the National Society. This year the topic was titled "Our American Heritage and Our Responsibility for Preserving It" The focus question was "How do the qualities of a good citizen help support our nation".

The Crane's Ford chapter congratulates Sophia Joseph for being chosen, our chapter has been sponsoring the Good Citizen Award since

1950. The National Society has been awarding the Good Citizen Scholarship for 88 years. The DAR, founded in 1890 and headquartered in Washington DC, is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children. Currently there are 185,000 members and 3,000 chapters nationwide. There are chapters in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and countries overseas. The Crane's Ford chapter was founded in 1944, New Jersey has 26 chapters. DAR membership is open to any woman 18 years or older who can prove a lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American Independence.

If you think you have a Patriot of the American Revolution in your family please contact DAR.org for more information.

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCILS JOIN FORCES TO HELP FIREFIGHTER

Submitted by John Doolan

When the news broke about Cranford Firefighter Rob Hurewitz and his special situation, both the Cranford and Garwood Knights of Columbus Councils wanted to help. So, our two Councils joined forces and held a Final Four Fundraiser at the Columbian Club of Garwood on April 2nd to benefit Rob and his family.

Well over 100 guests attended and our event was a tremendous success. On Sunday June 12th, we were able to present Rob, Amanda and Nora with a check for \$8,000 which we hope will help them during this difficult time.

Many Brother Knights from both Councils worked very hard behind the scenes to make this worthy fundraiser a success and we are also grateful for the support that we received from both the Cranford and Garwood communities. Special thanks to Battalion Chief Stratton and his team for bringing the two fire vehicles to serve as a backdrop for our check presentation.

The Cranford Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Fraternal Organization dedicated to our four Core Principles: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. The Cranford and Garwood Councils support many charities and civic causes locally, state-wide, and nationally and are committed to being a viable part of our community. For information about joining the Cranford Council, please contact our Grand

Knight Jerry Conheeney at 908-416-3464 or visit the Council website at cranfordknights.org.

Garwood residents who would like to join the

Garwood Council can either inquire at the club at 37 South Avenue, Garwood, NJ or visit garwoodkofc.weebly.com



(above, l-r) Firefighter Mike Kniazak, Brother and retired Harrison Fire Captain Ed Bagniewski, Battalion Chief Andy Stratton, Cranford Grand Knight Jerry Conheeney, Garwood Columbian Club President Aaron Dolan, Garwood Grand Knight Tony Villano, Cranford Treasurer Bob Margherito, Lt. Steve DiPaolo and Firefighters Tom Polito, Mark Wills and Tom Hannen, III.

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CRANFORD'S JAY BOXWELL CLIMBS THE VFW LADDER TO THE TOP

VFW Post #335, Cranford, NJ

It hasn't happened at the Cranford VFW in 56 years. A local resident and former Commander of Cranford's VFW Post #335 has been elected to the highest position in the New Jersey Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Cranford's own Jay Boxwell is the new State Commander for New Jersey, a position for which he has been striving for years.

"It was a labor of love," said 56-year-old Boxwell. "The many steps you must go through to get to the top, the untold hours of service, ensures that you are indeed worthy and ready. The position is not only a challenging one but carries with it a ton of responsibility, he added. "The 30,000 members of the VFW are counting on our officers to keep important veterans' issues, such as benefits and healthcare, in front of those leaders of our State and Federal government who sometimes tend to overlook us."

The previous Cranford resident who was also Post #335 and State Commander was former Mayor Vincent Brinkerhoff, ever known as "Brink", who was selected to the State position in 1966.

Boxwell was elected by VFW Post delegates at this year's State Convention, held in Wildwood in June. The convention was attended by well over 400 members and culminated with a large celebratory parade which included a military aircraft flyover.

"Jay is the consummate professional" said current Cranford Post Commander Mark Schwartz.

"He has worked tirelessly for the last six years since he started this process, advocating for Veterans," he continued. "The Cranford VFW Post is extremely proud, but not at all surprised, that his hard work has led him to become the State Commander of the New Jersey VFW. His knowledge of VFW bylaws and passion for improving the plight of veterans has greatly benefitted the Cranford VFW and I have no doubt that as State Commander he will do great things for all the veterans of NJ."

Under his leadership, Cranford's Post #335 was named one of the top 26 VFW Posts in the nation based on community activities and membership retention. As a result, he was named an All-State Commander twice and an All-American Commander as well.

Boxwell, a Navy Corpsman, saw duty in Nicaragua, Libya, and served aboard the Battleship USS Iowa during the late 80's Middle East Wars. He has been an active VFW member

for over 30 years and lives in Cranford with his wife Sharon and daughters Sophia and Brianna. Both are Cranford High School graduates who are now away attending college.

"I owe so much to my wife and daughters," explained Boxwell. "They are the ones who have put up with the hours and hours of meetings and days of travel away from home that I have done over the years chasing this goal of mine. They truly are so special."



(above) Jay Boxwell new VFW State Commander



(above, l-r) The Boxwell family: Daughter Sophia, Jay, wife Sharon, and daughter Briana.

Courtesy photos

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



If Knee Surgery Sounds Scary, It Should

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

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

Consider This Alternative To Surgery

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

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

How Does This New Treatment Work?

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

Do you Suffer from any of these Symptoms?

There are a number of reasons why you developed Osteoarthritis pain. It can develop with age or because of heredity. It could be from repetitive stress from a job or some glory days in athletics. Of course your concern is with the symptoms you face daily and how to make them end, hopefully without surgery or the use of potentially addictive medications. **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** understands the symptoms you have been living with and can help. If you have any of the symptoms below, please call us today. Relief is a phone call away.

- **Pain** - Whether it's a sharp aching or maybe a burning sensation, the pain can range from irritating to debilitating.
- **Swelling** - This can cause tenderness and soreness to the entire knee area, making walking or going up and down stairs painful, getting in and out of bed or bathtubs difficult and dangerous just name a few activities affected by swelling.
- **Stiffness** - Getting up out of bed or after sitting for a period of time gets more and more difficult. This loss of mobility can be more than a hindrance. It can be dangerous if you need to move quickly.
- **Loss of muscle strength** - This can lead to balance issues and the strong possibility of falling.
- **Joint deformity** - Not just unsightly, but painful as well.
- **Creaking Joints** - Can be painful and a sign of more discomfort to come.
- **Sleepless nights** - Losing sleep over your suffering is not just irritating, but potentially dangerous because of so many other health concerns that can be affected by loss of sound sleep.

Let Me Show You Targeted Relief From Your Knee Pain

Every day, I see patients suffering from knee pain due to arthritis, osteoarthritis, sports injuries or other conditions. Many have been told that they are in need of knee replacement surgery. Other patients say they have been prescribed various prescription medications to deal with the pain.

Something else I see almost every day, are patients that have tried viscosupplementation knee injections elsewhere and found it to be a painful and ineffective experience because the injections were not administered using fluoroscopic guidance. Instead of using the incredibly accurate diagnostic fluoroscopy we use at **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** these patients experienced a blind injection technique, which can be as inaccurate as playing pin the tail on the donkey.

Once I am able to explain to my patients about the pin point accuracy of using diagnostic fluoroscopy and the amazing results viscosupplementation can provide, they are thrilled to get started. They are even more thrilled when they feel the relief. Please contact **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** today to schedule your RISK FREE consultation.

Call 732-827-0800

Scot Paris MD, FACS



Here's what our patients have to say

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

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

"After only four visits, I have absolutely no pain! The staff is "top-notch." - Quenton L.

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LETTER OF THANKS FOR MEMORIAL DAY VOLS

This letter comes with sincere thanks to all who participated in honoring the men and women who lost their lives while defending our country's freedom. The Township of Cranford has 86 residents who have given their life for our freedom, and I am proud to say, each and every one of these residents were recognized this year once again, as a flag with their names on a ribbon for each soldier stood proudly at the ceremony.

The Memorial Day Committee members: Master of Ceremonies Barbara Bilger, Lee Blowe, Jay Boxwell, Steve Cukierski, Danielle DeCostello, Mark Dingelstedt, Jerry Dobbins, Russ Graham, Howie Lubinger, Elizabeth Mathieu, Nicole Mulcahy, Heinz Ricken, Chris Sands, Mark Schwartz and the Cranford 86 organizer Don Sweeney.

- VFW Post #335: Commander Mark Schwartz, Grand Marshal Braulio Liranzo, and all of the members of Cranford's VFW Post #335.
 - Volunteers of the Recreation & Parks Advisory Board: Carolyn Capone-Pugliese, Michelle Cook, Marita Dow and Wally Shackell.
 - Mayor and Township Committee: Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty, Deputy Mayor Jason Gareis, Commissioner Brian Andrews, Commissioner Mary O'Connor and Commissioner Gina Black.
 - Clergy Council: specifically, Pastor Connie Salerno and Msgr. Timothy Shugrue
 - The Recreation and Parks Staff: Bill Babkowski, Jan Koedam, Carol Kaminski, Kathie Spinelli, Eva Piassek and Aaryn Wichelns.
 - Cranford Police Department, Cranford Fire Department, Cranford First Aid Squad, Cranford Department of Public Works, Cranford Board of Education, TV 35, Green Thumb Garden Club of Cranford, Cranford Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts and many more.
- An extended thanks for the efforts of many other individuals who participated and volunteered their time and energy which made our Memorial Day ceremony a success.
- Stephen Robertazzi, CPRP, RA, CPO*
Director
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LARGE CROWDS WELCOME BACK CRANFORD'S MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND CEREMONY AS IT RETURNS TO ITS HISTORIC FORMAT

By Don Sweeney, Memorial Day Parade Committee Member and Founder of the Cranford 86 Project

For 101 years our town has held a Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony to honor our fallen military. In 1946, following WWII, when Cranford lost 57 young men within a four year span, 5000 townspeople came out to pay their respects. Throughout the years that followed, crowd sizes have varied. Two years of Covid-19 restrictions cancelled 2020's parade and gave us a parade and ceremony in abbreviated format in 2021. In 2022, Cranford's traditional parade and ceremony was back, and our townspeople answered our call of "Follow the Parade to the Ceremony" with the largest assembled Memorial Day Ceremony crowd in years.

For many years VFW member and WWII veteran, Bob Greco, would read the names of the 57 of his friends, classmates and teammates who died during WWII. He would always say, "To most of you, they will just be names, but for me, I will see each of their faces. I knew them all". As the years have gone by, many of Cranford's residents who knew these fallen men have either passed on or moved away. With Bob Greco's words echoing in our heads, we realized that it was time to reintroduce all of the men, whose names are engraved on the bronze plaques that stand in Memorial Park, to the new generations of Cranford residents. Six years ago, our parade committee, coined the name "Cranford 86" to represent the total number of Cranford's fallen military, and our mission to reintroduce them

began. Each year, we have instituted a different means of establishing the identity of each of these 86 men to our community. The scouts have carried Gold Star Flags in our parade since the early 1900's. In our first year, we individualized these flags, each with a streamer bearing the name of one of our 86. Year two was when we began writing a profile for each serviceman, complete with their photo, putting a face to the name. The profiles were bound into an ever-expanding spiral booklet and offered at Memorial Park for the first time to the attending public. In year three, vertical street banners were unveiled at Memorial Park and later hung on light posts throughout town, where the faces could now be seen throughout the year. In our fourth year, Covid-19 limited the public expression of our tribute to the Cranford 86 at Memorial Park, so we took to the studio to present an abbreviated version of our Cranford 86 profiles via TV35. This has now become a yearly tradition. Year five was the 100th anniversary of our parade and ceremony, and we created our first T-shirt. Its front design featured the digits 100 creatively filled with the 42 faces that we had unveiled since the inception of the Cranford 86 project. The parade anniversary was covered on CBS News by John Elliott, who graciously brought attention to Cranford's 86 via his thousands of tri-state viewers. And finally, this year, we launched the "My Hero" T-shirts. High-tech digital printing

allows a t-shirt to be custom printed with the image of any Cranford 86 street banner. Now a family member or any person that was touched by the story of one of our Cranford heroes, can wear the image of that hero. The wearer would have the ability to share their hero's story, to anyone that may question the image on their shirt.

Of all of the many American towns that have Hometown Hero campaigns on the lamp posts of their streets, only a very few feature the photos and stories of the fallen. We are very proud that in our town of Cranford, in a short period of time, we are approaching the halfway mark of a task that seemed impossible at its inception. The incredible stories that have been uncovered have totally taken all of us, and sometimes even the families of our heroes, by surprise. This year, the ever-growing yearly tribute book volume 1-5 is now 158 color pages and available for a donation, as well as the new "My Hero" T-shirts. We welcome your contribution to our project, via donation for merchandise, banner sponsorship or your knowledge of one of Cranford's 86. We would love to have a Cranford 86 tribute book on every coffee table in our town! We hope that someday, just as Bob Greco did, when our ceremony attendees hear a name, they will see the face as well.

Email us at info@cranford86.org for merchandise information, or text to 908-447-6511



Each year, as the Cranford 86 team begins the process of profiling a Hometown Hero's story, we hope to find a family member service and ultimately his sacrifice, became a hero. This year we were blessed to have found Todd Elichko (wearing a button called to service in Vietnam. Standing in front of the Hometown Hero Banner are the Cranford 86 team and the Elichkos. Elichko, Vic Bary and Stu Rosenthal.



The float that was reborn for the 100th anniversary of Newell Rodney Fiske VFW Post #335 was hosting this year's VIP troop down Central Avenue to Memorial Park. L-R Lee Blau Past Grand Marshall 2020, Brailio Liranzo USMC, this year's Grand Marshall.




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Each year the Memorial Parade Committee and the Cranford86 Project has been developing campaigns to make the names scouts display here Gold Star flags, each one has streamer identifying the hero that each flag represents. To the right are 43 banners have been created, this year's campaign is to allow the banners to be printed on T-shirts that can be worn by



The Cranford 86 Tribute Books

Volume 5, 24 Pages, this year's stories
Minimum donation \$15.00

Volume 1-5, 160 Pages, every story to date
Minimum donation \$50.00

The minimum donation represents the printing costs; any additional donation will help support our ongoing research and operating expenses.



The Cranford 86 profiles up to this year were written by Don Sweeney, but this year they have become a collaboration of Don and Janet Cymbaluk Ashnault. For the Steve "Spike" Rosich profile, Janet took the lead writer's role as her Nonagenarian uncle, Willie Cymbaluk, 94, was our personal guide to the life of our last hero story of 2022. We were thrilled that he was able to drive 2 hours to Cranford to honor his childhood friend.

"My Hero" \$30.
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Revenue from T-shirt sales help fund our ongoing research expenses
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 1st LT Alan M. Okell U.S. AIR FORCE 1919-1945	 PFC Joseph P. Minnock U.S. ARMY 1914-1945 - KIA	 PFC Arthur J. Galvin U.S. ARMY - WWII 1914-1945 - KIA	 PFC Dean J. Elichko U.S. ARMY 1914-1945 - KIA	 ENS Howard Goodman U.S. NAVY - WWII 1917-1944 - KIA	 YN Stanley H. Smith U.S. NAVY - WWII 1917-1917	 1st LT Charles A. Harker Jr. U.S. AIR FORCE 1920-1953 - KIA	 SGT Augustine V. D'Alessandro U.S. ARMY - WWII 1920-1944 - KIA	 LT COL Thomas Truxton U.S. ARMY - WWII 1914-1945 - KIA
 MM Benjamin E. Prioddy U.S. NAVY - WWII 1925-1943 - KIA	 WTJ James D. Roberts U.S. NAVY - WWII 1924-1944 - KIA	 MOMM3 Steve "Spike" Rosich U.S. NAVY - WWII 1921-1944	 MSG Gilbert A. Secor U.S. ARMY 1914-1944 - KIA	 CH (MAJ) Charles J. Walters U.S. ARMY 1927-1957 - KIA MCM	 S1 Friend J. Burton U.S. NAVY - WWII 1925-1945 - KIA	 CPT Newell R. Fiske U.S. ARMY - WWII 1924-1915 - KIA	 ENS Eugene G. McGarry U.S. NAVY - WWII 1922-1945	 SGT William H. Lee U.S. ARMY - WWII 1920-1945

Currently, we have created 43 banners; go to cranford86.org for the complete selection.
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The "Follow the Parade to the Ceremony" campaign has been building since the Memorial Parade committee launched closing float on her electric tricycle, encouraged parade watchers to pick up their chairs and follow her to memorial Park. the crowd that gathered to respect our Cranford 86, was larger than it has been in years.

\$11,000 IN SCHOLARSHIP MONIES DISTRIBUTED

Cranford Knights of Columbus

On Wednesday June 8th, in the St. Michael's Church Mary Prayer Garden, the Cranford Knights of Columbus presented \$11,000 in scholarship monies to 10 worthy high school students going off to college.

Alex Puhak received the Monsignor Louis Fimiani Memorial Award; Charlie Dino received the Christine Bagniewski Memorial Award; and Anthony Bottino received the Irene Shackell Memorial Award.

The other scholarship winners are Kelly Anderson, Erin Coates, James Ganley, Theresa Hickey, Michael Palacio, Zara Mendes and Emily Santulli.

The Council would like to thank our Chairman Ed Bagniewski and Committee members John Doolan, Rick Ferraioli, Bob

Margherito, Wally Shackell, Joe Starkey and Joe Stolte for a job well done. The Council would also thank everyone who supported our fundraisers enabling us to raise the funds for worthy Annual Scholarship donation.

Since our founding in 1970, the Cranford Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Men's Fraternal Organization dedicated to our four core principles, Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. The Cranford Council supports many worthy 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 Conheeny at 908-416-3464 or visit our web site, cranfordknights.org.



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(above) Pictured are all of the scholarship recipients with Father Sebastian Valencia Obando, Grand Knight Jerry Conheeny and the Scholarship Committee.

Courtesy photo

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IN SUPPORT OF UKRAINIAN CONFLICT

Orest Hrycak, Scoutmaster, Troop 75, Cranford, NJ

On May 22, 2022, Scouts and parents from Troop 75 and Pack 75 Cranford, along with Scouts, and their leaders from BSA Troop 1936, and volunteers from St. Michaels Roman Catholic Church, Cranford, met at the Cranford United Methodist Church (CUMC), and packed 198 Individual First Aid Kits (IFAK). The IFAK's were shipped to Ukraine by a local shipping company, MEEST.

The packaging of IFAK's, and shipment to Ukraine, is an initiative sponsored by PLAST, the Ukrainian Scouting Organization. PLAST USA has been assembling IFAK's and shipping the kits to PLAST L'viv, Ukraine, along with additional "Support for Ukraine" projects. Once in Ukraine, the IFAKs are distributed by PLAST groups to Ukrainian Army and Territorial Defense Units, manned and equipped by volunteers, as needed. As Russia's war in Ukraine began, PLAST had established its own Military Support Headquarters to assist Ukraine's fighting forces and to provide

humanitarian aid to affected populations. The distribution of medical kits is a key part of that assistance.

In March, 2022, Troop 75 had contacted PLAST leadership in the Whippany district to discuss different ideas for support. PLAST Whippany started a local initiative to assemble, ship and distribute IFAK's to Ukrainian casualties, and has shipped at least 4,000 IFAK's to date (PLAST Whippany continues the support to this day).

PLAST Ukrainian Scouting Organization, was formed in 1911, in L'viv, Ukraine. PLAST follows the guidelines of General Baden-Powell's 1908 original Scout Handbook, "Scouting for Boys".

PLAST has many members all over the world, and as an example, I have been a member since 1966.

BSA Troop 75 would like to thank all of the volunteers who participated in our IFAK support to Ukraine Project.



(above) Scouts and parents from Troop 75 and Pack 75 Cranford, along with Scouts, and their leaders from BSA Troop 1936, and volunteers from St. Michaels Roman Catholic Church, Cranford, met at the Cranford United Methodist Church (CUMC), and packed 198 Individual First Aid Kits (IFAK). The IFAK's were shipped to Ukraine by a local shipping company, MEEST.

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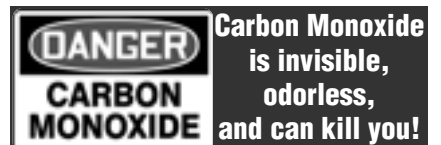
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DEREK GUTIERREZ AND ELLIOT PARKER & CRANFORD HIGH TATE CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF TEAM

Submitted by Bill Ray

Junior Derek Gutierrez and Senior Elliot Parker recently led the Cranford High Golf team to their greatest season ever. The team which compiled a 15-0 record won the Union County Tournament at Echo Lake CC, the Central New Jersey Group 2 Sectional Tournament at Twisted Dune GC in Egg Harbor, and the NJ State Championship Group 2 title at Hawk Pointe in Washington Township.

Derek Gutierrez finished second at the Tournament of Champions by firing an even par 72 at Hawk Pointe GC. Within the past month Derek shot 74 to finish third in the Blue Devil Invitational at Echo Lake CC, 71 for third place in the Watchung Conference at Galloping Hill GC, 71 in the Union County Tournament at Echo Lake to finish tied for second and 76 in the State Sectionals at Twisted Dune GC. Including dual matches his 9 hole average was 37.04 and he was named to the All - Conference team.

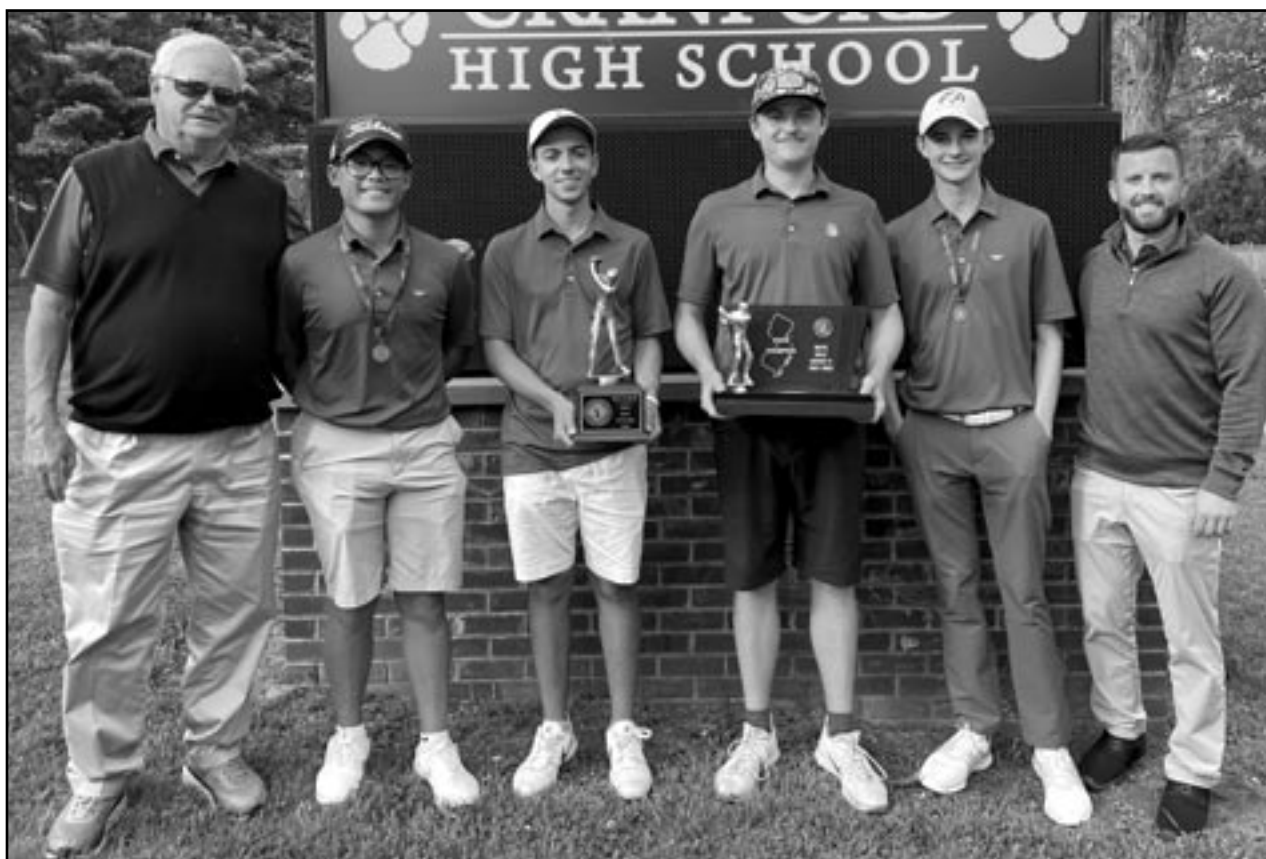
Elliot Parker's season was equally impressive. He shot a 1 under par 71 at Twisted Dune to become the South/ Central NJ Group 2 medalist. He followed that a week later by carding a 76 in the State Finals at Hawk Pointe. He also tied Derek for second in the Union County Tournament with an even par 71. Earlier he finished second in the Peddie School Invitational with a 71 and Elliot also broke the single 9 hole record for Cranford with a 6 under par round at Canoe Brook South. He had 2 eagles and 2

birdies in the 9 hole match vs Summit. Including dual matches his 9 hole average was 36.75 and he was named to the All - Conference team. Elliot will be attending Drew University in the fall and will be a member of their championship golf team.

Sophomore Brandon Quach also had an outstanding spring highlighted by rolling in a 12 foot birdie putt in the State Finals Playoff which put Cranford over the top against second place Madison. Brandon also fired the second best round in the Watchung Conference tournament at Galloping Hill with a one under par 70. His other tournament scores were 75 at Peddie, 78 in the Blue Devil, and 83s in the Union County Tournament, State Sectional and State Finals. He also fired a 2 under par 34 at Plainfield CC to

help the Cougars defeat Westfield who were defending Tournament of Champions winner and ranked first in the state. Brandon also earned All - Conference honors.

Other players who made major contributions to the unbeaten season are junior Nick Ret (44.32 ave), sophomores Danny Kennedy (45.18 ave) and Jake D'Aquino (45.3 ave). Sophomores Chris Santarelli and Ryan Bissell gained a great deal of experience and will be vying for starting positions next year along with junior Matteo Wilde. Senior letter winners who will be missed are Kevin Ruple who will be attending Rutgers, Brian Readie who will be continuing his education at Scranton University, Zach Manhardt, University of North Carolina - Wilmington and Connor Howard who will pursue a business career.



(above, l-r) Coach Bill Ray, Brandon Quach, Derek Gutierrez, Elliot Parker, Nick Ret, and Asst Coach Sean Trotter

Courtesy photo

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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO “BUILD DIGNITY FOR ALL”

St. Joseph Social Service Center

St. Joseph Social Service Center, one of the largest social service agencies in Union County, has launched a \$1,200,000 capital campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to improve and expand services for families and children in need in Elizabeth and to fulfill its vision to serve the homeless and poor with compassion and dignity.

Even before the pandemic, St. Joseph's witnessed a rise in demand for services. This trend stretched the capacity of the agency's facilities and created challenges for staff and volunteers. Spaces intended for one purpose needed to be used for multiple programs. Temporary storage units for food and clothing were placed on site. The increase in clients led to lines extending into the neighborhood, a particular concern during inclement weather. The parking lot and access streets became congested and overwhelmed with vehicles arriving to drop off and pick up food, clothing and supplies. And then the pandemic hit, leading to a spike in client demand, exacerbating all these problems.

“Dignity has been a core value of the agency since our founding in 1983,” noted Bernadette Murphy, Executive Director. “Our goal is to help people acquire the material items they need to live with dignity. We believe that it is vital for our clients to receive food, clothing, supplies and support services in an environment that fosters dignity, where the homeless and poor are truly welcomed as brothers and sisters. In order to

achieve this goal and expand and improve the services we offer, we have developed a vision for a remodeled campus. Our vision is to construct a new building on our property where it will be possible to create a client choice food pantry with hours by appointment; to construct a second new building for the donation and distribution of clothing and home goods; to reconfigure and pave our lot to make it easier to pick up and drop off items and to reduce traffic on the surrounding streets; and to renovate space in our former church building, parish hall and house on site to improve the ability of St. Joseph's and The Elizabeth Coalition House the Homeless, our sister agency, to provide support services.”

“St. Joe's has been open six days a week throughout the pandemic” stated Harold Kessler, President of the Board of Trustees. “We have never missed a day. Our staff and volunteers have placed the needs of the community in Elizabeth ahead of their own health and well-being. It's been extraordinary.” Six days a week a dedicated team of volunteers, numbering in the thousands, makes sandwiches for the hungry in their kitchens in Westfield, Cranford, Basking Ridge and dozens of other communities, bring food, clothing and home goods, serve meals at the soup kitchen and help with the operations of the agency. St. Joseph's provides over 250,000 meals per year. In addition, the organization provides area residents with clothing, household items, prescription assistance, health screenings, mental

health counseling, job training and case management.

To learn more about St. Joseph's please visit sjeliz.org. Members of the community who would like to support the capital campaign are welcome to contact Executive Director Bernadette Murphy at 908-354-5456 or at BMurphy@sjeliz.org.

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NJMVC MOBIL UNIT TO VISIT AUG. 1

Cranford Police Department

The Cranford Police Community Outreach Unit is bringing the Motor Vehicle Commission to Cranford in 2022! Our goal is to bring this mobile unit to Cranford to help those with limited mobility, or limited means to get to a traditional MVC Center. Currently, reservations are being taken for the August 1st, 2022 session at the Cranford Community Center from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

To make a reservation, download the free Cranford PD app and click on “NJMVC Mobile Unit”. If anyone has accessibility issues with our online sign ups, they can contact us directly at 908-272-8989 or 908-709-4313.

The Mobile Unit can serve up to 40 customers, with an additional 10 customers to be placed on a standby list.

Here are some services that may be provided by the Mobile Unit:

- Driver License renewals can be processed within six (6) months of expiration and upgrading to the REAL ID driver license.
- Registration renewals, Veteran Handicap and Purple Heart recipients' placards.
- Permits and Non-Driver ID.
- License plate drop-offs are also allowed and do not count against the number of customers we can serve during the event.
- REQUIRED: Six (6) points of ID is required and a social security card. Those who do not possess a social security card or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) may submit an affidavit form which can be found on the MVC website www.njmvc.gov. In place of a social security card, a customer can present a W2 from the past tax year (2020), a current pay stub (number cannot be redacted), or a 1099 form. Only listed can be used as replacements for a social security card.
- Hours of Operation: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

THE FOLLOWING TRANSACTIONS CANNOT BE PERFORMED AT THE MOBILE UNIT(S)

- Business vehicle registrations
- CDL's
- Endorsements (aside from boats & motorcycles)
- Knowledge tests
- Out of State License Transfers
- Permit tests (we only issue permits)
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GARDEN HELPLINE REOPENS

Gardening questions?

Need insects identified?

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County can help.

After being closed for the past two years due to the Covid pandemic the Helpline is now open to help solve your questions and problems.

Even landscape professionals occasionally need assistance identifying problems. Diseases of trees and shrubs or insects need to be properly diagnosed before they can be cured or controlled.

Rutgers Garden Helpline is staffed by trained volunteers to assist the citizens of their county with continuing educational opportunities supplied by Rutgers agricultural department during the year.

Rutgers Garden Helpline of Union County is located at 300 North Ave East, Westfield, NJ, (Colleen Fraser Building, 2nd floor). For questions and office hours call the Garden Helpline at 908-654-9852

There are three ways you can reach the garden helpline with your questions.

First you can call them at number above.

Secondly you can e-mail questions and photographs to: mastergardeners@ucnj.org

Or clients can bring a plant, lawn, or insect samples to the office. Specimens are the surest way to guarantee a proper identification.

Hours are Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., and Friday 10 a.m. until noon.

The Garden Helpline volunteers are well trained to identify tick* species including 'deer ticks' which transmit Lyme disease to humans and pets.

This is an extremely valuable service as the deer and tick populations continue to grow in New Jersey.

The Asian Lantern-fly invaded Union County last spring and has already damaged many fruit trees and vines. The Helpline will keep you updated on the latest information how to control this colorful but destructive leaf hopper.

In addition to garden critters the Helpline will identify house infesting insects such as carpenter ants, termites and food infesting pest.

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MEMORY OF ANDREW COLUCCI HONORED AT NJ SHARING NETWORK’S 5K

On May 15, 2022, thousands of organ and tissue transplant recipients, donor families, living donors and dedicated volunteers participated in NJ Sharing Network’s 5K Celebration of Life Walk and USATF Certified Race at the Great Lawn at the Ocean Promenade in Long Branch, NJ.

More than 70 family members and friends of the late Andrew Colucci, 28, of Cranford, NJ, gathered together to form the “Andrew’s Angels” 5K team to honor his memory and show their support for NJ Sharing Network’s life-saving mission. Andrew, who tragically passed away in 2018, was an organ and tissue donor who saved and enhanced the lives of many others. Andrew’s parents, Karen and Frank Colucci, led the 5K team and expressed great pride in knowing that Andrew’s legacy of caring for others lives on.

Andrew was a graduate of Saint Peter’s Prep in Jersey City. He earned a B.S. degree in Business/Finance from Monmouth University and was a member of Theta Xi Fraternity. He was

passionate about physical fitness and nutrition, loved to cook and discover new restaurants.

According to United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), there are over 100,000 Americans – nearly 4,000 of whom live in New Jersey – waiting for a life-saving transplant. One organ and tissue donor can save eight lives and enhance the lives of over 75 others. To learn more, get involved and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit NJSharingNetwork.org.

The 5K Celebration of Life, which was sponsored by Hackensack Meridian Health, is the largest fundraising event to support organ and tissue donation and transplantation in the United States. Thus far, \$924,000 has been raised for this year’s campaign. Another 5K Celebration of Life Walk and USATF Certified Race will be held on Sunday, June 5, 2022, in New Providence, NJ. To participate in the upcoming 5K Celebration of Life or contribute to a team, sign up at SharingNetworkFoundation.org/5K.

ABOUT NJ SHARING NETWORK

Currently celebrating its 35th anniversary, NJ Sharing Network is the federally designated non-profit organization responsible for recovering donated organs and tissue in the Garden State. Last year, 233 generous individuals in New Jersey gave the gift of life, an all-time high for a single year. In addition, 42,112 eye and tissue donations healed and enhanced the quality of life for those in need. With headquarters in New Providence, NJ, the organization has been recognized by NJBIZ as one of the state’s “Best Places to Work” for four consecutive years.

ABOUT THE SHARING NETWORK FOUNDATION

The Sharing Network Foundation is committed to increasing the number of lives saved through clinical advancement, family support, public awareness and education about the life-saving benefits of organ and tissue donation and transplantation. By making a contribution, you empower our efforts, bringing us a step closer to providing the greatest gift of all... the Gift of Life.



(above) Andrew’s Angels

Photo by Sharing Network

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LIBRARY BOOK SALE JULY 21 – 23

Looking for some great books at bargain prices? The Friends of the Cranford Public Library invite you to visit their used book sale in the library's "Friendly Book Cellar." Browse through shelves full of thousands of books. Quickly find what you are looking for and make new discoveries. Most adult hardcover books are \$2.00 and paperback books are \$1.00. Most children's books are 25 cents or 50 cents.

The Book Sale will take place on July 21 (1-8 pm), July 22 (10 am-5 pm), and July 23 (10 am-2 pm). July 23rd will be bag day. For just \$8, you can fill a paper shopping bag with books. Cash or checks only. Registration is required and can be done so at cranfordlibrary.org/friends.php or via the QR code provided.

The Friends look forward to seeing you at the "Friendly Book Cellar." Proceeds of all book sales benefit library programming and events for all ages throughout the year.

These sales are made possible only because of your book donations. Book donations are welcomed and appreciated, any time during library hours. Library staff at the front desk can help direct you.



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CRANFORD LIBRARY JULY ADULT PROGRAMS

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Monday - Thursday: 10AM-9PM; Friday, Saturday: 10AM-5PM; Sunday: Closed

Monthly International films are back!

Monday July 11 at either 2 pm or 7 pm

Join us at the Cranford Community Center for a film screening. This month's film is a dark comedy from Israel. Feel free to stick around after the film to discuss. Please contact the library for specific film titles. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. No registration required.

Adults Create Program

Tuesday July 12 at 7 pm

Join us in the Cranford Community Center for our monthly Adults Create program. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month for a new craft. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. Space is limited and registration is required and can be done here:

eventbrite.com/e/adults-create-tickets-358525528507

The Impact of Women on Music in America

Thursday July 14 at 7 pm

Join us at the Cranford Community Center for a fun and informative live music program about the impact of women on music in America.

From their musical contributions to their struggle for equal pay and recognition, Kirsten covers the early innovators and pioneers, as well as contemporary stars of today while sharing some of her personal journey as a professional touring and recording musician. Part concert, part history, part folklore, Kirsten is accompanied by Eric Boyd on bass and guitar for this one-hour program. Sponsored by the

Friends of the Library. Registration is required and can be done here:

eventbrite.com/e/women-in-music-folk-rock-soul-blue-tickets-346332137747

Lecture with Rock Historian Vinnie Bruno

Part 1: Monday July 18 at 6:30 pm.

Part 2: Monday July 25 at 6:30 pm.

We are thrilled to welcome back lecturer and rock historian Vinnie Bruno to Cranford for a two-part program in honor of Paul McCartney's 80th birthday! Join us at the Community Center for this engaging presentation! Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.

Registration is required and can be done here:

eventbrite.com/e/paul-mccartney-80th-birthday-celebration-tickets-347596389157

Summer Reading is back!

Enter between June 20 and August 13

Adults can log their books, earn digital raffle tickets, and enter to win gift cards to local businesses between June 20 and August 13.

Visit cranfordlibrary.beanstack.com or download the Beanstack app to get started! New for this year, we are also introducing a BINGO card. Adults can return 1 BINGO card per person and get an additional raffle ticket towards our grand prize. We will also have paper forms for anyone not interested in participating online. Visit the Circulation or Reference Desks for BINGO Cards, paper logging forms, or for more information. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.

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Township of Cranford

Independence Celebration



Saturday, July 2nd

Nomahegan Park



5:00 p.m. - Food Vendors & Inflatables!

9:15 p.m. - Fireworks

Limited parking at Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave.

Residents are urged to walk

For updates and event information, please call Cranford Recreation & Parks Dept. 908-709-7283.





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www.instagram.com/cranfordrecreationandparks

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Father & Child	8:30am	21+	10:00am
10-14	9:00am	Ma & Pa	10:30am
Marathon Ages 13-17	11:00am	Marathon Ages 18+	11:30am

For additional information, please contact
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4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700	\$1900
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000	\$2200
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400	\$2700
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