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JOSHUA SCHWARTZ RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS SOTY AWARD

Annually, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States awards three individuals who are: Eagle Scouts, Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, Venture Summit Award recipients and/or Sea Scout Quartermasters who have risen above their peers in exemplifying the qualities of that rank.

Joshua Schwartz received the VFW State of NJ Scout of the Year (SOTY) award at the Wildwood Convention Center on June 18, 2022. Joshua is an Eagle Scout in Cranford BSA Troop 75.

Joshua was selected for the SOTY award first by VFW Post 335, Cranford NJ, then VFW District 5 and finally at the state of NJ Level, which is quite an achievement. His application was strong on Scouts Spirit, Service to the Community and represented a well-rounded individual which pulled him above all the other applicants.

The SOTY award was presented at NJ State VFW Convention, by the NJ VFW Scout Committee Chair, Mr. Jim D'Arcy, past VFW Post 335 Commander (and current District 5 Quartermaster), in the presence of the VFW convention participants, the Schwartz family and Cranford BSA Troop 75 Scoutmaster Orest Hrycak. Supporting the SOTY award from VFW Post 335 were the former Post Commander Mr. Drew Burns (VFW District 5 Commander), current Post Commander Mr. Mark Schwartz (District 5 Junior Vice Commander) and current Post Senior Vice Commander Mr. Mike LaComb (District 5 chief of staff) as well as Mr Hanif Davis and Mr. James Silkensen filling out the Post Honor Guard.



(above) Scoutmaster Orest Hrycak,
Joshua Schwartz, and NJ VFW Commander
Jay Boxwell Jr.



(above, l-r) NJ VFW Scout Committee Chair, Mr. Jim
D'Arcy, Joshua Schwartz, and past NJ VFW Commander,
Mr. Luddie Austin.



(above, l-r) The Schwartz family- Rachel,
Craig, Parker and Josh



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CRANFORD BASEBALL 4X CHAMPIONS

Submitted by Chris Folvik

The 11u CBSL travel team won the Cal Ripken District Championship on June 26, 2022. Beating Chatham 11-1 and marking an undefeated tournament, going 5 and 0 in the round robin and knock out games.

The team received a stellar pitching performance from their ace, George Gish! Along with great defense and timely hitting from the entire team.

The championship marks the 4th consecutive year the team has won the District and has move on to states. A absolute remarkable feat by a

group of dedicated coaches and kids that are proud to represent Cranford.

The team is coached by John Cuthbertson, Bob Sawicki, Michael Aveno and Brenden Freely and is made up of the following players: Jackson Folvik, Keifer Cuthbertson, George Gish, Colin Freely, Conner Brown, Julian Grasso, Christian Quinty, Dylan Caggiano, Brandon Schoening, Aiden Younger, Luke Sawicki and Nathan Aveno.

The parents of the CBSL 11u team would like to thank the coaches for their hard work and dedication.

CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ

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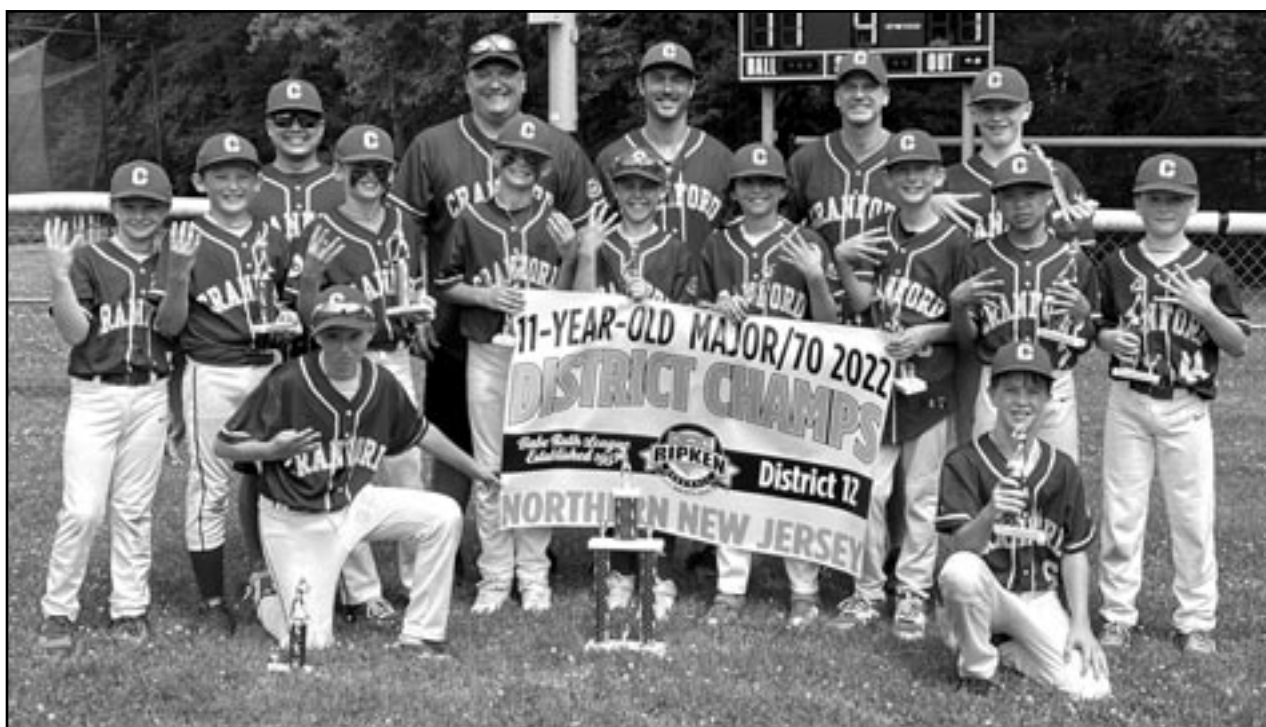
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(above) Grand Knight Jerry Conheeneey and close friends of the Ulaky's, Brother Knights Joe Starkey and Ed Bagniewski along with Julie Carroll and Jim Ulaky.

Courtesy photo

CRANFORD KNIGHTS DONATION TO THE ULAKY FAMILY

Submitted by John Dolan

After hearing about Cranford resident Jim Ulaky and his unfortunate accident, the Cranford Knights of Columbus wanted to help Jim and his family during this challenging time. After a two-year postponement due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the Council was able to hold our annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance at St. Michael's School gym on March 26th. Our dance was a tremendous success with close to 300 guests attending.

Every year, the Council donates to a worthy charity from the proceeds of this worthy event, and this year we had an easy choice. The Cranford Council voted to donate the entire dance proceeds of \$7,000 to Jim and his family working closely with Julie Carroll and Cranford Family Care who we have had a very close relationship with for many years.

The Cranford Council would like to thank everyone who attended and supported our Dinner Dance enabling us to help this nice Cranford family. We also like to thank and recognize all our Brother Knights and their families who worked extremely hard behind the scenes to support and make our 2022 Dance a successful and memorable event and fundraiser.

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 we are committed to being a viable part of our community. For information about joining the Cranford Council, please contact our Grand Knight Jerry Conheeneey at 908-416-3464 or visit the Council website at cranfordknights.org.

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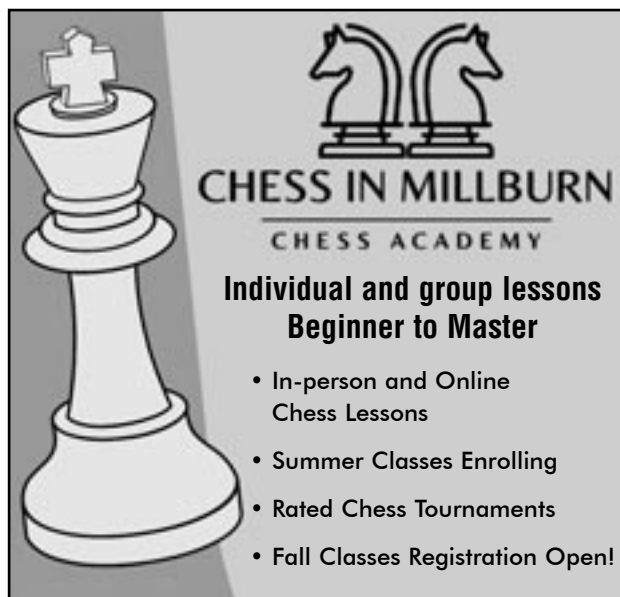
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Chess for Fun is a casual group of chess players who have been meeting for roughly 50 years. The group's players come from all over, and in the case of Larry Morse, as far away as Whitehouse Station. The most senior player, at 98 years old, is still playing strong.

It their earlier years the group met at the Rahway Public Library when it was located on St. Georges Avenue. In 1999 a flood destroyed the library. Chess for Fun has been meeting in

the Clark Public Library every Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. And at Max's Pizza & Bistro in Scotch plains on Monday mornings at 11 a.m.

There are no formalities to the group. It is not an established club with officers or membership. Everyone of any ability is welcome to participate. Regulars bring their own board to share so it is not necessary to bring a board, but it would be helpful if you can.



(above, standing, l-r) Players and hometowns: Larry Morse, Whitehouse Station; Mark Shoengold, Colonia; Jack Rothstein, Edison; John Foy, Scotch Plains; Bodre. (seated, l-r) David Goldstein, South Plainfield; Neil Landau, Edison; Matthew Bistis, Mountainside.



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FIRECRACKER KICKS OFF THE FOURTH WITH A BANG

Thousands Run and Watch the Annual Event, Raising \$42,000 for Scholarships

The Firecracker Four-Miler and Fun Run kicked off Cranford's Independence Day in a big way with almost 1,500 participants and hundreds more spectators and supporters cheering them on.

The race, organized by the Cranford Jaycees, has been held annually since 1979, drawing runners from across the state for the one mile fun run and four mile road race with participants ranging from ages 3 to 83. The fun run had its largest crowd ever with more than 450 participants, 30% more than last year.

"The Firecracker has become a town tradition, and the Jaycees feel fortunate that so many people start their holiday by being a part of it," said Dave Farrell, who co-chaired the event with Roger Imhof.

Cameron Janovic, 21, of Oceanport won the

four-miler event with a time of 19:54.3. Kristen Prendergast, 41, of Annandale was the top female finisher at 23:54.2. The top male and female finishers in the one-mile fun run--Caleb Goldblatt, 12, and Bella Giudice, 13--were both from Cranford.

The event is a fundraiser for the Jaycees scholarship fund. In June, the group awarded their largest amount of scholarships ever - totaling \$42,000 - to graduating Cranford seniors: Sofia Bongiovanni, Anthony Bottino, Emily Cavanna, Erin Coates, Seth Epstein, Logan Gard, Catarina Guimaraes, Tess Hagstrom, Theresa Hickey, Ariel Hsu, Amelia Hunt, Ariadne Mahadeo, Owen Maher, Gianna Melise, Zara Mendes, Natalia Onisko, Kelsey Quinones, Ethan Sachs, Emily Santulli, and Joshua Schwartz.

For the first time, two scholarships were awarded to students planning to attend trade school: James Zambito and Joel Beltran. This expansion of the scholarship program was championed by Danny Ghanime, owner of Brighton Air Corp and title sponsor of the Firecracker event, who says, "I found my way through trade, and now I want to help other kids, who may feel like they don't fit into the traditional post-graduation route, find their way, too, and land a good paying job." Zambito will be attending trade school locally, while Beltran is focusing on electrical/electronics at Lincoln Tech.

The Cranford Jaycees next major event will be Oktoberfest, which returns to Union College on October 1st. Tickets go on sale in early-September.

Photos by Cranford Jaycees



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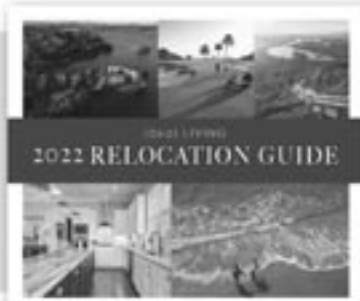
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(above) Kaleigh Keogh

Courtesy photo

ELLIE BARKIN-BARON RETURNS TO LEAD SCHOOL SHE ATTENDED

Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim (TBEMC), Cranford’s Jewish synagogue, has hired Ellie Barkin-Baron to serve as Education Director of the religious school. The hire represents a homecoming of sorts for Barkin-Baron, who has been a member of the temple since childhood and attended the school herself.

“I am ecstatic to become the education director of a temple that I consider home. I cannot wait to work with and get to know all the families in our community,” said Barkin-Baron.

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CRANFORD STUDENT RECEIVES DIABETES SCHOLARS SCHOLARSHIP

Kaleigh Keogh, a local 2022 high school graduate, was recently awarded a scholarship through Diabetes Scholars, a program of nonprofit organization Beyond Type 1 that is designed so that students with type 1 diabetes can use the support to help propel their success. This year, the Beyond Type 1’s Diabetes Scholars program awarded a record-breaking \$166,000 to 58 high school seniors such as Keogh.

Keogh has lived with type 1 diabetes—alongside her two younger sisters who also have type 1 diabetes—since she was three years old and has thrived despite the challenges of this chronic illness. Keogh has never wanted her illness to limit the things she or her sisters can do and works hard to exceed expectations in school through dual enrollment and extracurriculars. Continuing to demonstrate her dedication to not letting diabetes hold her back, Keogh is using this scholarship to continue her education at Providence College this year.

"We're proud to join our generous sponsors in honoring the accomplishments of the Diabetes

Scholars' Class of 2022," said Jordan Jendricks, vice president, mission and programs, Beyond Type 1. "These students are incredibly deserving of recognition. They showcase strength in managing and thriving with a turbulent chronic illness while exceeding academic expectations, and we're continually inspired by their perseverance and resilience."

Since 2008, Diabetes Scholars has awarded nearly \$2 million in college scholarships. Dedicated partners Dexcom, JDRF, Lilly Diabetes and Medtronic helped make this year's scholarships possible along with 23 scholarships provided by individual donations within the diabetes community. One hundred percent of scholarship funds donated by individuals or partners are awarded directly to scholarship recipients, with Beyond Type 1 absorbing all operational costs associated with the program. Beyond Type 1 is proud to have directly sponsored 6 individual scholarships as part of this year's program. To view the 2022 class of Diabetes Scholars, visit diabetesscholars.org.

FRIENDS OF LIBRARY AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP

The Friends of the Cranford Public Library awarded its 2022 Gerard Paradiso Library Studies Scholarship of \$1,000 to Victoria

Pawlicki this past June. Ms. Pawlicki will be receiving a Master of Information degree from Rutgers University in December 2022.



(above, l-r) Anthony Cirillo, former President of the Friends; Victoria Pawlicki; Susan Dahl, current President of the Friends; and Michael Maziekien, Director of the Cranford Public Library.

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JULY 4TH CANOE RACE WINNERS

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department is pleased to announce the winners of the July 4, 2022 Canoe Races:

10 – 13 YEARS OLD:

1st Place: Mike Daly & Chris Uglieroro

2nd Place: Sam Slayton & Max Slayton

3rd Place: Jessica Macha & Rachell Macha

14 – 20 YEARS OLD:

1st Place: Frank Agnone & Chris Uglieroro

2nd Place: Joe Uglieroro & Ryan Roese

3rd Place: Mike Daly & Sam Slayton

21 YEARS AND OLDER:

1st Place: Chris Slayton & Tom Kelly

2nd Place: Tom DiGiovanni

& Matt DiGiovanni

3rd Place: Mike Gorman & Lacey Gorman

MOTHER & CHILD:

1st Place: Kristen & Sam Slayton

2nd Place: BJ & Anna Canedo

3rd Place: Jackie & Emily McGill

FATHER & CHILD:

1st Place: Chris & Max Slayton

2nd Place: Jan & Rachel

3rd Place: Tom & Erin Kelly

MA & PA:

1st Place: Mike & Rebecca Scotti

2nd Place: Chris & Kristen Slayton

3rd Place: Robyn Burcher & Steve Marler

MARATHON 13 – 17 YR. OLD

1st Place: Sam Slayton, Mike Daly

& Frank Agnone

2nd Place: Ryan Roese, Joe Uglieroro

& Chris Uglieroro

3rd Place: Joe Acinapura, Christiano Ambrosio

& Michael Scotti

MARATHON 18 AND OVER

1st Place: Louis Bock, Paul Buonaguro

& Paul Starkey

2nd Place: Kevin Trotter, Gavin Murray

& Pat Gorman

3rd Place: Chris Slayton, Tom Kelly

& Erin Kelly

VINCENT P. DITTA WILL LEAD DISTRICT OF ELKS - USA

Thousands of members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America and guests have gathered in Atlanta, Georgia, from July 3 to July 6 for the BPO Elks National Convention. During the convention, Vincent P. Ditta, of Cranford, was installed as District Deputy for the BPO Elks for lodges in the East Central District of the New Jersey State Elks Association and will serve a one-year term.

The BPO Elks is one of the premier patriotic and charitable organizations in the United States of America and is committed to making its communities better places to live. Each year, the Order donates more than \$375 million in cash, goods, and services to the needy, students, people with disabilities, active-duty members of the US armed forces and their families, veterans and their families, and charitable organizations. In the 154 years since the Order's founding, the BPO Elks has made charitable donations totaling approximately \$12 billion.

As part of the Elks' ongoing commitment to help students achieve their goals, the Elks National Foundation awards annual college

scholarships worth a total of more than \$4.5 million to students across the country. To help local lodges make positive changes in their communities, the Elks National Foundation's Community Investments Program provides local Elks lodges with nearly \$16 million to help them build stronger communities.

This year, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission proudly celebrates seventy-five years of service to veterans and military members. Through the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, Elks give generously of their time, energy, and resources. Elks provide direct service to veterans at more than 350 VA medical centers, state veterans homes, and clinics; use grants to provide veterans with food, supplies, and support; and provide beds, supplies, and emergency assistance to veterans experiencing homelessness. Elks pledge never to forget our veterans and keep that pledge every day.

To learn more and join us in service, visit Elks.org. For membership information, visit Join.Elks.org.

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Just like tens of millions of other Americans, you were looking for relief from your chronic knee pain. You thought Viscosupplementation injections might be the answer, but the results were disappointing and painful. Don't assume the treatment wasn't right. That could very well be like blaming the arrow for its path to the target when the problem might be the archer. If you didn't get the pain relief you were hoping for, chances are your injection treatment was off target. Unlike blind injections or even ultrasound targeted treatments found elsewhere, **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** uses diagnostic fluoroscopy to make sure the area that needs treated is the exact area where the injection goes. This is the most advanced method of delivering this pain relieving treatment with 95% accuracy to give you the results you're looking for. The use of Fluoroscopy guided injections sets **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** apart. The end result is you living pain free from your chronic knee pain. You can avoid the lengthy and painful road of knee replacement surgery. You can avoid the endless trial and error assortment of potentially addictive prescription medications. This treatment, using fluoroscopy guided injections has seen a success rate of above 85% in those suffering from knee pain related to osteoarthritis, and that includes people with bone on bone involvement. You've suffered from chronic knee pain long enough. Call **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** now for a RISK FREE consultation.



If Knee Surgery Sounds Scary, It Should

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

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

Consider This Alternative To Surgery

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

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

How Does This New Treatment Work?

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

Do you Suffer from any of these Symptoms?

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

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

Let Me Show You Targeted Relief From Your Knee Pain

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

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

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

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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.

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

- Quenton L.

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SUMMER SOUNDS - THURSDAY EVENINGS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 29

Downtown Cranford's Summer Sounds will be held Thursday evenings until September 29, at Eastman Clock Plaza, 6 – 8:30 p.m.

- 8/4 Big Train - Horn-infused R&B and Soul
- 8/11 The Genesee Stills Band
- American Grass Roots Rock & Roll
- 8/18 Binge - Covers 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s
- 8/25 Picasso Moon - Grateful Dead tunes
- 9/1 MPack - R&B and Blues
- 9/8 Don Braden/Karl Latham Big Fun(k)
- Funky, electrified originals
with a couple of complimentary covers
- 9/15 Swing Town Big Band
- 20-piece big band bringing forth classic swing charts and modern jazz
- 9/22 Lovehandles
- 7-piece groove band with brass
- 9/29 MPack - R&B and Blues

For more information visit
downtowncranford.org.



(above) Forget the Whale, a pop rock female fronted band, performed at Eastman Clock Place on Thursday, July 14.

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WALK TO END LUPUS SET FOR SEPT. 11

The Lupus Foundation of America, New Jersey Chapter, invites you to our 30th Annual Walk To End Lupus Now. Join us at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 11, 2022 at Nomahegan Park in Cranford, NJ as we walk for a cure and to assist people suffering from lupus. Form a team, or walk as an individual, to raise money. To register or donate visit: givebutter.com/FNpmmK or text 53-555 and type in: WALKLUPUS22. For more information, please call 973-379-3226.



LOCAL CHORUS OFFERS FREE A CAPPELLA SINGING SESSIONS

The Hickory Tree Chorus chapter of Sweet Adelines International invites women singers to register for its free "Big Summer Sing." You can come any Wednesday, in August, 7 to 9:30 p.m. at The Shrine of St Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ for chord-ringing, fun-filled, four-part a cappella music.

Each week, guests will participate in vocal

and physical warm-ups and work on songs with the chorus. The chorus sings a variety of music, including old-fashioned love songs, Broadway, Disney, Beatles, and more.

To register for the Big Summer Sing, please email info@hickorytreechorus.org or call 908-377-1399. For more information, visit hickorytreechorus.org.



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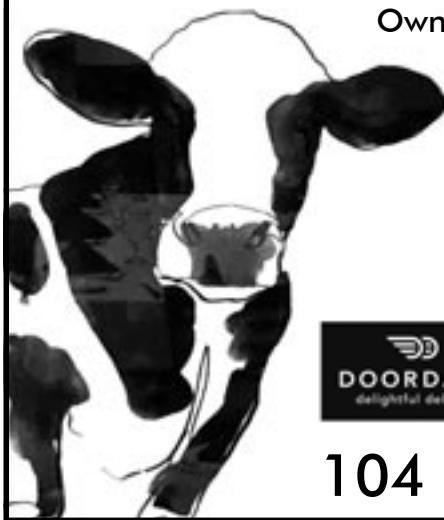
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MATTHEW LUBIN PROMOTED TO BATTALION CHIEF

The Cranford Fire Department is happy to announce that Matthew Lubin has been promoted to the rank of Battalion Chief. “I am proud of Matt and happy to elevate him to the rank of Battalion Chief.” Said Chief Dan Czeh. “Battalion Chief Lubin is involved with many high-level initiatives that showcase his talent. In his role as Cranford’s OEM Coordinator, he was heavily relied upon to guide the Township through a global pandemic, devastating floods and countless other emergencies. All while successfully completing his Fire Department responsibilities. Battalion Chief Lubin is a highly motivated individual who consistently demonstrates sound practical judgement and displays a commitment to serve with integrity. He has molded Cranford’s OEM and Fire Prevention Bureau into models that other municipalities want to follow.”

Battalion Chief Lubin realized he wanted a career in public safety during the tragic events of 9/11. He began serving as both a Fire Explorer and Police Explorer while in high school. Upon turning 18, he successfully completed the Fire Academy and served as a Cranford Call Department member. He was appointed as a Career Firefighter in 2008. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and assigned as the Township’s Fire Official in 2015. Battalion Chief Lubin also serves as the active fire representative on the Board of Trustees for the NJ Police and Firemen’s Retirement System. In this role, he

chairs the regulatory and legislative committee and is a member of the investment and audit committee.

“I would like to thank the Township Committee and Administrator Jamie Cryan for their continued support and for always making public safety in Cranford a high priority.” said Chief Czeh. “This promotion is two-fold – it awards a high-output employee and is a key component to succession planning within the Fire Department.”



(above) Battalion Chief Matthew Lubin
Courtesy photo

LITTLE FREE PANTRY NEEDS FOOD

Can you donate some groceries? The Little Free Pantry is in need of a replenishment of food. Drive by Cranford United Methodist Church, 201 Lincoln Ave E, Cranford, and in the parking lot you will see the Little Free Pantry. Built by Cranford Eagle Scout Josh Schwartz, the pantry is open 24/7 for anyone who needs food or wants to donate food. Take what you need, leave what you can – no questions asked. If the pantry is full, there are extra bins available for your non-perishable food donations.



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GARDEN HONORS BELOVED LONG-TERM PATIENT

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Rahway now has a garden honoring Everett Duchin of Colonia, a beloved hospital patient.

“When we first discussed it, it was going to be a bench and tree,” joked Everett’s brother Eric of South Plainfield. Everett’s immediate family, together with friends and extended family, started a GoFundMe page to raise money. The Everett Howard Duchin Memorial Garden now includes several ornamental trees, flowering plants, and benches circling the hospital’s familiar gazebo.

“We thank the Duchin Family and their many friends for providing a beautiful place for family, friends and staff,” said Hospital President Kirk Tice.

Everett Duchin was 41 when he passed away at home in 2021. An infection during infancy had left him severely brain damaged requiring 24/7 care. As an adult, he sometimes needed a ventilator to help him breathe.

His family was devoted to his care. He was often hospitalized for weeks and months at a

time.

“My mom spent many a night in a chair by his bedside at the hospital,” Eric recalled. “He was hospitalized so often, we said he should have a wing.”

Everett, called Evi, was beloved by hospital staff, who would comb his hair, play with him or just come in to visit, recalled Everett’s mother, Arleen Duchin. “He had a great smile,” recalled Nurse Theresa Dobbin. “And he really loved Teddy Ruxpin,” an animatronic toy bear that talked.

In a touching ceremony in front of the hospital’s signature gazebo, Arleen Duchin thanked the hospital staff, hospital administration and Hospital President Kirk Tice, her family and all the family’s many friends for contributing to the garden.

“This gift from the Duchin family created a beautiful space for people to take a moment in their day,” said Vice President of Development Heather Hays.



(above) The Duchin family pose with some of the many staff members who took care of their son Everett. RWJ Rahway Nurse Melanie Mercado, Everett’s parents Mel and Arleen Duchin, RWJ Rahway Nurse Theresa Dobbin. Back row, Everett’s brothers Eric, Jared and Elliot.

Photo by J Martin Production

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SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED AT ANNUAL BANQUET

Submitted by Cynthia Isaksen

The College Women’s Club of Cranford was founded in 1932 by Eleanor Sprole and her colleagues who dedicated their time raising money for women to further their education and attend college. The College Women’s Club of Cranford is celebrating its 90th year. We continue in that tradition to raise money for scholarships through fundraisers such as our Scholar Tea and

Cranford 150th Anniversary Tote Bag. All proceeds from these fund raisers go to Scholarships for graduating Cranford students. This year, the Club has awarded five Scholarships to High School Seniors residing in Cranford. These students are bright, creative, empathetic, and involved in the community. The Scholarship Committee makes our selection based on character, academics, leadership, and

community service. It is with great pleasure to award the 2022 Eleanor Sprole Scholarship to the following recipients:

- Alyssa Colombrita
- Catarina Guimaraes
- Elaina Michetti
- Ethan Sachs
- Asher Schectman

In addition, we present an annual Scholarship Award to the highest-ranking academic female student, who this year is Cranford High School Valedictorian Abby Bacall.

Please continue to support the College Women’s Club of Cranford. And our fund-raising efforts. Congratulations to all!

The College Women’s Club of Cranford held their Annual Scholarship Banquet in June. This year, the Club awarded five scholarships to high school seniors residing in Cranford. These students are bright, creative, empathetic, and involved in the community. The scholarship committee makes the selection based on character, academics, leadership, and community service.

The club is pleased to announce that Alyssa Colombrita, Catarina Guimaraes, Elaina Michetti, Ethan Sachs and Asher Schectman are the recipients of the 2022 Eleanor Sprole Scholarship.

In addition, we present an annual scholarship award to the highest-ranking academic female student, who this year is Cranford High School Valedictorian Abby Bacall.

The Club also awarded scholarships from its Tribute Scholarship Fund to Emma Ingraham, a senior at Cranford High School, and Grace Ollen, a senior at Union Catholic High School. The Tribute Scholarship is designed to honor “The Everyday Hero” – a student who is dependable, loyal, trustworthy, and committed to service. An outstanding role model often unheralded, this student makes valuable contributions to family, to school, and to the community. Candidates cannot apply for this award; they are nominated by a faculty member in their school. The fund is made possible through the generous contributions of members and friends of the College Women’s Club of Cranford who wish to honor or memorialize a loved one.

Thank you to all who supported the CWCC and made these scholarships possible. Congratulations to our scholarship recipients and to all Cranford residents of the Class of 2022

If you are interested in making a donation to the fund, or learning more about our club, our mission and membership please go to our website collegewomensclubcranford.com.



(above, l-r) Congratulations to The College Women’s Club of Cranford Scholarship and Tribute Award Recipients Ethan Sachs, Asher Schectman, Elaina Michetti, Emma Ingraham, and Grace Ollen

Courtesy photo

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AMANI TO PERFORM AT NEW JERSEY'S MOST INTIMATE COFFEEHOUSE

The Salem Roadhouse Café presents Amani, Saturday, August, 13 2022. The doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Amani means “peace” in Swahili. The group was formed to share the concept of peace through music.

The core veteran musicians are frontmen Stephan Fuller on vocals, and Marty Eigen on woodwinds. Amani is a collective with connections to dozens of talented musicians who perform alongside them regularly.

Amani performs hits from a variety of genres including: The American Songbook, Folk, Blues, Gospel, R&B, Jazz, Bossa Nova and Broadway.

Amani brings the sounds of the Caribbean to the Salem Roadhouse Cafe! Featuring hits by Harry Bellafonte, Jimmy Buffett, Bob Marley, Sunny Rollins and more, this joyful presentation will have you singing and dancing in the aisles. Amani features: Stephen Fuller, a dynamic bass/baritone singer; Marty Eigen, tenor and baritone sax; Domo, a steel drums, piano and

vocalist virtuoso who will also excite the audience with a dance; Alex Gressel, Bass; Larry Greenburg piano; Gordon Lane, drums, along with Oloye Karade, percussionist.

As always, the Salem Roadhouse Café is live, intimate, up front, and personal. All ages are welcome.

Salem Roadhouse Café is located at 829 Salem Rd., Union, NJ. Doors open 7:30 p.m. Show starts at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$20, and includes show, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, and dessert.

ABOUT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

It's not “church music.” It's music music.

Folks who've come to the Salem Roadhouse Café know that it's a clean, safe place for people who enjoy listening to live music — in a world otherwise filled with clubs and bars. The Roadhouse has always offered its stage to local and independent mainstream musicians. Jazz, rock, folk, and other groups have performed. What's the common thread? They're all great musicians playing the kind of music people like to hear. There's no message, just music.

The Roadhouse started in 2008 by members of Townley Presbyterian Church with a grant from the Presbytery of Elizabeth. Hey — that's why we're located where we are. The Roadhouse

operates as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. That's its social mission.

But the many musicians who've played the Salem Roadhouse Café see it as a solid performance venue. They love it because of its special intimacy and great audiences. They say people here “really listen.” Ask any of the musicians you meet here — they love to play the Roadhouse, and they want to come back often.

Community Involvement

The Salem Roadhouse Café has raised funds for many carefully chosen charities. They include: The Presbytery of Elizabeth E-port Center, Center For Hope Hospice, Community Food Bank, Monarch Housing, Angel Paws Animal Rescue, National MS Society, Haiti Disaster Relief, Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief, The Union County YWCA Domestic Violence Programs, Making It Possible To End Homelessness, Camp Johnsonburg, The Music Institute, Ukraine disaster relief, and others. Thousands of dollars have been raised for these deserving charities. The Salem Roadhouse Café, together with Townley Presbyterian Church, has begun a series of free outdoor concerts to help various urgent charitable causes. More are planned.

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CRANFORD NIGHT OUT - AUGUST 2ND

Cranford Night Out will be held August 2nd, 2022 from 6 – 9 p.m. in Municipal Lot # 1. DJ, Face painters, Italian Ices, Static Displays of

Emergency Vehicles, Activities For Kids - all free of charge to our residents! Join the members of the CPD for an evening of family fun!

Lot # 1
Cranford Night Out

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CHESS FOR FUN CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Chess for Fun is a casual group of chess players who have been meeting for roughly 50 years. The group's players come from all over, and in the case of Larry Morse, as far away as Whitehouse Station. The most senior player, at 98 years old, is still playing strong.

It their earlier years the group met at the Rahway Public Library when it was located on St. Georges Avenue. In 1999 a flood destroyed the library. Chess for Fun has been meeting in

the Clark Public Library every Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. And at Max's Pizza & Bistro in Scotch plains on Monday mornings at 11 a.m.

There are no formalities to the group. It is not an established club with officers or membership. Everyone of any ability is welcome to participate. Regulars bring their own board to share so it is not necessary to bring a board, but it would be helpful if you can.

ADULT LIBRARY PROGRAMS

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Saturday: 10AM-5PM; Sunday: Closed

Karl Latham Trio concert

Tuesday August 9 at 7 p.m.

Join us at the Cranford Community Center for the Karl Latham Trio concert! Drummer Karl Latham's career has spanned the globe performing, recording and producing with Grammy Award winning artists, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame members and multitude of internationally acclaimed musicians. Karl is best known for his exceptional ability to dig into a variety of musical styles. Join us for this fantastic concert. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. Registration is required and can be done at eventbrite.com

De-colonizing the Garden

Wednesday August 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Pura Belpre award-winning young adult author Raquel Vasquez Gilliland will be examining the garden through an equity lens and reflecting on her personal experience in the garden. Join us on Zoom for "De-colonizing the Garden." This free program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Registration is required and can be done here:

us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LvgXs5ampTZqVnyelab0myw

Magnolia Street String Band

Monday August 15 at 7:00 p.m.

The Magnolia Street String Band will bring their tremendous talent and original style to the Cranford Community Center. A group Formed in Highland Park, NJ in 2013, their music is grounded in traditional bluegrass with elements of cosmic Americana, country, and old-time as well as original compositions mixed in. The band's sound features powerful three-part harmonies and compelling instrumentals. Don't miss this one-night only event! Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.

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UNION COUNTY'S OWN COMEDIAN MIKE MARINO

I recently had the honor and pleasure of meeting "New Jersey's Bad Boy of Comedy" Mike Marino. Mike grew up in Scotch Plains, and resides there now in his childhood home.

He is a comic who has performed all over the world and head-lined at some of the biggest stages, clubs, and theaters in the country. This talented comedian has been on the stage with some of the biggest names in the business. Mike has appeared in over 200 national television commercials, received many endorsements, and



(above) Mike with his many awards including the honors he received for helping veterans. Mike was awarded the prestigious "Bob Hope" award (seen here in his right hand). This award is only presented to performers who go beyond the call of duty.

a Best Actor Clio Award Nomination. He has acted in many prime-time soaps and television shows including: As the World Turns, One Life to Live, Becker, Nikki, Frasier and Party of Five. His film credits include Crooks, Pizza with Bullets, hangin' in Hedon, Steven King's Lucky Quarter and Criticized.

Adding to his great success in film, theatre, commercials and soaps, Mike Marino began touring the world performing and selling out at countless clubs, theatres and casinos. His stand-up material ranges from cutting edge observations of everyday life to his Italian family roots, which recently spun into a television pilot called "Re-Constructing Jersey". His comedic style has landed him guest appearances on "The Tonight Show" as a regular sketch player, "The Martin Short Show", "Canada's Comedy TV", "The Boomer Show", "Wild Pitch", and "Hand Held Comedy Radio". A clip of Mike's appearance on Byran Allen's "Comics Unleashed" earned him over 7 million views (and counting). This led to his current web series "Marino 2016" – an original comedy based on Mike's Road to the White House and wise guy attempt to become the first Italian American President of the United States.

Recently, Untied Brewing Company hosted a comedy show for the New Jersey Veterans Network in New Providence. Both Assemblyman Jon Bramnick, known as New Jersey's funniest lawyer, and Mike Marino performed at the show and it sold out immediately. After the show, I was able to meet Mike and he explained to me how he always supported our uniformed heroes and wanted to really get involved with our team.

A few days later, I met with Mike in his 'Mother's Basement' studio, in Scotch Plains, where he hosts his nationwide podcast show, and

we began working on ideas to help the charity. Mike has always supported our uniformed heroes; he was a member of the USO comedy team and entertained the troops in places like Bosnia and Afghanistan. After his comedy tour, Mike was awarded the prestigious "Bob Hope" award. This award is only presented to performers who go beyond the call of duty. Mike has hosted and performed countless times for our brothers and sisters in blue. After the 9-11 tragedy, Mike felt he was obligated to do something for the first responders' families affected by that horrendous and devastating day. He joined up with both the Los Angeles Sheriffs and Police Department, and they do a comedy show every year that raises money for the 9-11 fallen families.

New Jersey Veterans Network is very lucky to have Mike on board and we can't wait to bring joy to these extremely difficult times.

For more information, and if you would like to follow Mike Marino, please check out his website mikemarino.net and podcast – "Live from My Mother's Basement".

If you are interested in joining the New Jersey Veterans Network team please contact Michael Boll at mdbollio@optonline.net. For more information visit NJVN.org.

ABOUT NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK

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

INDEPENDENT AUTHORS BOOK EXPO AT LINDEN LIBRARY TO BRING TOGETHER WRITERS FROM ACROSS THE NATION - AUG 6TH

The Roselle, NJ-based nonprofit Independent Authors Book Experience (IABX) will be hosting its 9th annual book expo in person on Sat., Aug 6th, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., at Linden Public Library, 31 East Henry St, Linden, NJ. Authors from around the nation will be gathering together to share their original works and to promote the love of literacy to all ages, while attendees can enjoy readings from the authors, book signings, children's books giveaways and more.

"It's always such a pleasure hosting this outstanding event where book lovers, young and old, can gather and meet the writers of such unique stories," states Renaee Smith, founder and CEO of Independent Authors Book Experience. "This year, we are welcoming children's book writers, biography authors, sci-fi and fantasy works and lots of poets. All will have a chance to meet with interested readers, as well as have a chance to read an expert to the crowd."

In acknowledgement of the COVID-19 pandemic, the event will be held outdoors. All

CDC recommendations at that time will be followed. Forty authors and multiple vendors will be gathered together to showcase their work and create a fun event for all ages.

"Our annual expo is always a blast, and we won't let COVID-19 dampen our spirits," states Smith. "We look forward to meeting in person and hosting this intimate networking event. We are planning some exciting activities, including our regular children's corner for kids to listen to some new stories and take home some free crafts, giveaways for all who participate, and seminars for authors to help them along with their craft. There is something for everyone who attends."

The goal of the Expo is to also help novice authors find ways to make a living through the written word. Smith speaks from a position of experience - she is an international award-winning author herself, pulling from her native Jamaica to write cook books, as well as writing children's picture books. She inherited her mother's passion for reading and literature,

sharing her deep love for the arts at a young age.

Smith started IABX in 2014 with a goal to promote and empower independent authors through various events and workshops, thereby promoting literacy for all ages. To date, 300 writers from all over the nation have benefitted from the services offered by the nonprofit.

For more information about the event and how to register, visit: www.iabx.org/iabx-expo

ABOUT INDEPENDENT AUTHORS BOOK EXPERIENCE

Independent Authors Book Experience (IABX) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote and empower independent authors through events, workshops and author services, thereby promoting literacy for all ages. Since its creation, IABX has become a widely-recognized hub of resources for the launch and promotion of new titles, including author profiles, book reviews, recommendations, event information, interviews and articles. Learn more about IABX at iabx.org.

MACKENZIE A. KEIM GRADUATES TRINITAS SCHOOL OF NURSING

Trinitas Regional Medical Center’s School of Nursing recently celebrated 49 graduates at its 168th commencement ceremony. Included was Mackenzie A. Keim of Cranford.

The graduation ceremony, held at St. Michael Church in Cranford, featured a traditional pinning ceremony that symbolizes a rite of passage into the professional world of nursing and the nurse’s commitment to those they care for.

While nursing school is uniquely challenging for all who enroll, the students that made up Trinitas Regional Medical Center’s School of Nursing class of 2022 faced unprecedented challenges throughout their two-and-a-half year nursing school journeys which started in January 2020 just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. During that time the students navigated multiple challenges with resilience including transitioning between remote and in-person learning multiple times, adhering to safety protocols including smaller clinical groups,

social distancing, mandatory masking and face shields, COVID screening, weekly COVID testing and relocating on campus after Hurricane Ida flooded the Trinitas School of Nursing educational center on the Union County College Campus. Additionally, nursing students in the class of 2022 participated in vaccination efforts with supervision from faculty, administering some of the first COVID vaccines to the community.

“It is my pleasure to congratulate the Trinitas School of Nursing Class of 2022,” said Gary S. Horan, FACHE, President & Chief Executive Officer, Trinitas Regional Medical Center, an RWJBarnabas Health facility. “The past two and a half years have been unexpected and unforgettable, but our nursing students rose to every challenge they were faced with. We are very proud of students as well as our faculty and staff, for doing this important work during a very challenging situation, all while keeping with the

mission of Trinitas Regional Medical Center upholding a commitment to providing high-quality care to a diverse population.”

Established in 1891, the Trinitas School of Nursing is fully accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Nursing Education, Inc. and the New Jersey State Board of Nursing. In 1971, the school made a commitment to serve educationally disadvantaged students, the non-traditional, and those seeking a second career and/or career mobility. This commitment resulted in the formation of a Cooperative Nursing Program (CNP) in partnership with Union County College, which allows students in the CNP to graduate with a Diploma in Nursing from Trinitas School of Nursing and an Associates in Science from Union County College. Upon graduation, all students are also eligible to sit for the National Council Licensing Examination for Registered Nurse Licensure. (NCLEX). For more visit trinitasschoolofnursing.org.




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