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NATIONAL WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD CELEBRATED

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

"Experts tell us that 90% of all brain development occurs by the age of five. The experiences our young children encounter during this time shapes their future learning and

development," said Stacy Nick, Director of CNSCC. "This fun event is a great way to recognize the importance of early learning for all young children and to bring Cranford together to recognize those that dedicate their lives to working with them."

Cranford's Mayor Brian Andrews commented, "We know how important early education is for our children and their future success. Cranford is blessed to have engaged and active parents, a number of high-quality early education providers, and a diverse offering of activities and programs to engage young minds. We are grateful for this special week where we can highlight the vital educators who provide essential services for Cranford's youngest members. I'm proud to join our community in celebrating our children and saluting the dedicated staff who care and educate for them."



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SHINING STARS TO PERFORM ON MAY 13TH

The Shining Stars, now in their 11th year, will take the main stage at the Union County Performing Arts Center for their “World Tour” on Saturday May 13th for a 7 p.m. show.

The talented cast of special needs performers will highlight the hits from groups and artists from all around the globe, including The Beatles and One Direction (England), Bruce Springsteen (USA), Abba (Sweden), Irish dancing, and so much more. The show will feature 30 special needs individuals and their “buddies” from local high schools, who serve as mentors during rehearsals.

“Our cast has been working hard for their 2023 debut,” noted Shining Stars Network Cofounder and Show Director Sally Curci. “The acts are going to be amazing and we invite everyone to join us for another exciting and fun night.”

Tickets are now on sale at UCPAC.org.

Also, on Saturday, August 5th, history will be made when the Shining Stars make their Paper Mill Playhouse main stage debut. Tickets for “The Greatest Show” — which will feature songs from Broadway and movies — are on sale now at PaperMill.org.

The Camp Shine Summer Workshop will take place from August 14th-25th (go to ShiningStarsNetwork.org to register) and they will cap off the year with their annual “Christmas



Spectacular” in December.

“Shining Stars is all about being inclusive and giving our performers a chance to shine on stage while creating lasting memories,” said Sally Curci. “These opportunities build all-important self-esteem and self-confidence. Along the way our cast members and their high school buddies create bonds and friendships that they’ll always remember.”

For more information on the organization or upcoming events, please visit ShiningStarsNetwork.org.

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The Cranford Honorary P.B.A. Local #52

During the 1980's and early 1990's the Cranford Honorary P.B.A. Local #52 served and supported the members of the Cranford Police Department. This organization consisted of business owners and citizens who fully supported the Cranford Police Department, the Cranford Policemen's Benevolent Association Local #52 and their respective members. The Honorary P.B.A. actively aided in the good and welfare of the Cranford police officers and their families. The Honorary also physically and monetarily supported the Cranford Police Department with many programs that helped cement relationships, both professional and personal, between the police and the community.

The spirit that brought about this organization has been alive and well since its rebirth in 2016. Spearheaded by both retired Cranford P.B.A. members and dedicated community members, the Cranford Honorary P.B.A. mission is simple:

"To promote the moral, professionalism and the good and welfare of the Cranford Police Department and to promote and grow the relationship between the citizens, business owners and the members of the Cranford Policemen's Benevolent Association and the Honorary P.B.A."

The Cranford Honorary P.B.A. is seeking motivated individuals who are interested in becoming members, board members and volunteers. There will be monthly commitments, but the rewards will be worth it. We are looking

for those of you who have the desire to actively support the members of the Cranford Police Department and their families in good times and in bad. In a world of ever increasing public disdain and constant scrutiny of our law enforcement officials, we need women and men community leaders, who are willing to stand up and actively support those who keep us safe. We are fortunate to live and work in a wonderful community and believe that the rebirth of the Cranford Honorary P.B.A. has been a fantastic asset to Cranford.

If you are interested in joining this noble organization, or desire more information, please call 908-272-2227, or drop us a line at: Cranford Honorary PBA Local 52, P.O. Box 1663, Cranford, NJ 07016.

FIREHOUSE NEWS



New Hire - Fire Fighter Samuel Scher (above) Samuel Scher has been a member of the Cranford Fire Department serving as an EMT and a volunteer Firefighter since 2018. Fire Fighter Scher is a 2014 graduate of Cranford High School. He went on to earn a bachelor's Degree in Behavioral Sciences with a minor in Psychology from Seton Hall University.



Promotion - Fire Lieutenant Carmen Giordino (above) Fire Inspector Carmen Giordino was promoted to rank of Fire Lieutenant. Lieutenant Giordino began as a Cranford Fire Explorer.

When he turned 18, he became a Call Firefighter for Cranford. While attending school and volunteering, Lieutenant Giordino also served his country as a Marine Reservist earning the rank of Corporal in the 3rd Battalion 14th Marine Regiment. While serving, he also obtained an associate's degree in Fire Science.

Courtesy photos



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JAY BOXWELL TO BE GRAND MARSHALL



(above) Jay Boxwell will be the Grand Marshall of Cranford's 2023 Memorial Day parade.

Cranford VFW Post #335 has announced that the Grand Marshall of this year's Memorial Day Parade will be town resident Jay Boxwell. Boxwell is currently the NJ State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Boxwell a Navy Veteran, saw active duty in Nicaragua, Libya with the 2nd Marine Division and the Persian Gulf, aboard the battleship, the USS Iowa. Of particular note, was the fact that as a Navy Corpsman he was on the personal medical staff of President Regan during a year of his term in office. He also accompanied President Regan during the 100th Anniversary celebration of the Statue of Liberty.

Under Bowell's leadership as Cranford VFW Post Commander from 2015 – 2018, the Post was named an All America Post, one of the top 26 in the nation. He is also the recipient of the 2018 "Pride in Cranford" Award, an annual award given by the town Chamber of Commerce.

As State Commander he has made significant inroads in helping the Veterans Hospitals remedy the conditions which attributed to unacceptable death tolls among hospitalized veterans during the COVID crisis. He has testified at Senate and Assembly hearings about the horrific conditions at the Veterans Homes. "It simply was unconscionable to see the percentage of fatalities occurring to our Veterans. It was unlike anything in any other type of facility not just in our state but it was the worst in the county." The immediate result was a privatization of the management of the State's three veteran's homes. He is currently working with Senate and Assembly leaders on a reorganization of the NJ Department of Military Affairs hoping to give better aid and assistance to NJ Guard members and their families.

A long-time Cranford resident, Boxwell lives with his wife, Sharon and his two daughters, Sophia and Briana who are currently attending college, and is employed by the NJ Department of Transportation.

CRANFORD MARCHES ON MEMORIAL DAY

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department proudly announce the annual Cranford Memorial Day Parade will take place on Monday, May 29th. The parade draws great crowds along its route and has been a mainstay for decades in town. Covid forced it not to be held in 2020 and limited in 2021, but 2022 saw a full rebirth of the popular event.

The line up for the parade begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Community Center at 220 Walnut Avenue and the march commences at 9:00 a.m. The traditional memorial ceremony will be held at the parades end at Memorial Park on Springfield Avenue, between Riverside Drive and Central Avenue at 10 a.m. The parade route takes Walnut Avenue to North Avenue, west to Eastman Street. Then to Central Avenue to Springfield Avenue at the Memorial Park. Should there be inclement weather, the Memorial Service (only) will be held inside the

Community Center at 10:00 a.m.

Many of the town's organizations are represented in the patriotic parade. The line of march includes the VFW Color Guard, Grand Marshall Jay Boxwell, members of VFW Post #335, Cranford High School Marching Band, the Mayor and Township Committee, Cranford's Police, Fire & First Aid Squad, as well as Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood, along with their Fire and First Aid Department. Many scout and sports Leagues and political organizations will be marching among various other town organizations. The service at the park is peaked in tradition, featuring the Cranford High School band and the school's Madrigal Ensemble. The reading of the "Cranford 86", the names of those Cranford residents on the Memorial Monuments, who have given their lives for our country tops off the solemn ceremony on this day of remembrance.

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Jun 1	Birder's Walk
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Jun 8	Qigong in the Garden
Jun 14	Members Jazz Picnic
Jun 14	Creative Arts Day in the Garden
Jun 23	Tackling Invasive Plants
Jun 27	Members Twilight Tour & Croquet
Jun 29	Members Historical Society Bus Tour of Short Hills
Jul 11	Twilight Tour of Garden Ornaments
Jul 21	The AAPI Jazz Collective Concert
Jul 27	Members Tour & Picnic
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Aug 16	Creative Arts Day in the Garden
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SOS ~ SAVE OUR SEAL! A MESSAGE FROM THE U.C. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

War is hell. Unfortunately, that powerful expression is just as accurate today in Ukraine, for example, as it was in Elizabethtown in 1780. In both cases, civilians suffered, and are suffering, along with soldiers.

Heroic sculptures and statues of beribboned generals on horseback are noble and inspiring, to be sure. On the other hand, however, there is the World War II Katyn Memorial in Jersey City, showing the horror of war as it depicts the brutal massacre Russians committed on Polish soldiers graphically showing a bound and gagged Polish soldier impaled through his back by a bayoneted rifle. At its base, a Polish woman cradles a starving child, representing the Polish citizens who were deported to Siberia. Are we to take down such monuments because the horror they depict offends us, or should they remain, conveying their timeless message to us: "Never forget, and Never again!"

Yes, war is hell. And it was so in 1780 as local patriots fought for independence against the often cruel and brutal British and Hessian troops.

One of the most infamous events of that struggle was the horrible murder of Mrs. Hannah Caldwell, the wife of the famous Rev. James Caldwell ("the fighting Parson"), on June 7, 1780 in Connecticut Farms, now Union. It seems that ongoing discussions concerning the changing of the County Seal depicting Mrs. Caldwell's murder by a British soldier apparently have finally come to light recently.

This tragic event has been depicted on our County Seal for over 100 years. In 1923, the Union County Historical Society proposed and supported the official adoption of the Seal, which had previously been used unofficially for decades. It was formally ratified by the Board of Freeholders at that time. The Society has been proud of its role in the adoption of the Seal a hundred years ago, and strongly opposes current efforts to change it.

Some now object to the Seal's depiction of a violent and senseless act against a woman and mother of nine young children. But it really happened! Are we to ignore it? Those were dangerous times in this area and few were spared from the death, destruction, and suffering that occurred.

Indeed, Hannah Caldwell's death became a rallying cry to the despondent, tired, and outnumbered American troops who were inspired to fight on at the Battle of Springfield, the turning point of the Revolution in the North, just two weeks after her death.

Whether she was inside the house or outside when she was murdered is immaterial to the Seal's message. Showing her outside the house simply makes the event more visible. Similar artistic license is often employed in depicting important events in history. For example, the iconic and dramatic 1851 Emanuel Leutz painting of Washington's 1776 Christmas night crossing of the Delaware near Trenton is inaccurate in every way except one: its heroic portrayal of a courageous and brilliant military operation, which led to an important turning point

in the war.

History is not always convenient; it has more than its share of suffering and evil, as the Union County Seal demonstrates. And isn't that in fact the meaning and message of the Seal, that democracy and freedom often demand sacrifice. It is a reminder of the terrible price paid by the brave men and women during those difficult times. Any redesign of our iconic and unique Seal would dishonor and diminish the memory of Hannah Caldwell and so many others who sacrificed all in the long and difficult struggle for independence.

Indeed, after the war, Washington acknowledged that no place had suffered greater deprivation and destruction than Elizabethtown and its environs. Our Seal reminds us of that. Let it be.

Charles Shallcross, Vice-President, U.C.H.S.



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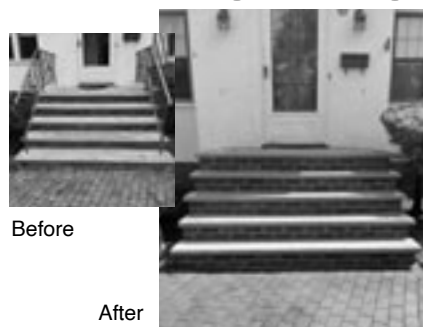


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IN THE HEIGHTS AT CDC THEATER MAY 5-20

Before Hamilton was In The Heights and it's coming to CDC Theatre in Cranford.

The final production of CDC Theatre’s 104th season, *In the Heights*, is set to run weekends from May 5 to May 20. Lin Manuel Miranda’s first Broadway show burst onto the stage in 2008. The show was nominated for thirteen Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Book and Score, as well as for Direction and Choreography. Of those thirteen nominations, it won four awards, including Best Musical, Original Score, Choreography and Orchestration.

The musical tells the story of three days in the vibrant community in Manhattan’s Washington Heights – a place where the coffee from the corner bodega is light and sweet, the windows are always open, and the breeze carries the rhythm of three generations of music. It’s a community on the brink of change, full of hopes, dreams and pressures; where the biggest struggles can be

deciding which traditions you take with you, and which ones you leave behind.

“We are excited to at last be able to produce this show. Circumstances and pandemic restrictions caused it to have been postponed, but we were committed to having the chance to present it.” said Joe Leo, the show Producer. “Once we were able to add it to this season, we had one of the biggest audition turnouts ever at the theatre and have assembled a wonderful cast from throughout the state!”

The music of *In The Heights* takes its cues from the diverse Latin community it represents, infusing hip-hop, salsa, merengue and soul music into the score with lyrics about life, love, community and the American dream. There are eight shows, including two matinees. For best ticket prices and selections visit cdctheatre.org.



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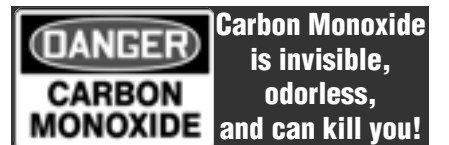
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(above) Diane R. recently donated a car to the NJVN. She handed the keys over to "Sarge".

THOMAS MANZO NAMED HIGH SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

The Cranford Board of Education is pleased to announce Thomas Manzo as the new Assistant Principal of Cranford High School. Mr. Manzo was selected after an extensive search process which included multiple interviews with the selection committee; reviews of work samples; and a very thorough reference check.

Mr. Manzo graduated early from Rowan University and earned his Bachelor's Degree in History and Education with magna cum laude honors and earned a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership at Montclair State University with summa cum laude honors.

After graduating, he found part time positions at West Essex and Glen Rock High School which led him to his long term positions at Lodi High School, where he's been for the last nine years. There, he began his career as a History Teacher and served in numerous roles, including the I&RS/504 case manager, student council advisor, and the head spring and winter track and field coach. Mr. Manzo enjoys crafting lesson plans, collaborating with the department, organizing events for his track teams, and challenging students to be the best they can be.

In 2018, Thomas Manzo became the Lodi High School department supervisor of social studies & spanish, and subsequently, also supervised the business department. Through collaborative efforts, he strived to offer additional opportunities for the educational community, including offering more Advanced Placement courses, coordinating with the County College to offer dual enrollment courses, and updating the school curriculum to promote diversity, equity & inclusion.

Thomas Manzo lives in East Hanover with his wife, Katherine, and their 15 month old daughter, Claire. They're also expecting their second daughter this summer. Mr. Manzo is very excited and honored to join the Cranford team and looks forward to partnering with faculty, students, parents/guardians, and community members to determine how he can best serve our community.



CAR DONATIONS HELP VETERANS

Submitted by Michael Boll, Director New Jersey Veterans Network

The New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) has received countless donations and other awesome support from Renna Media News readers. We are extremely fortunate to have so many readers that love helping our veterans live a better way of life. To date articles in Renna Media publications have resulted in 4 car donations. Veteran "Sarge" is the most recent recipient of a car donation after the donor read an article in a March publication. We are blessed to have such a generous following, donations like this will help our veterans get to work, and their medical appointments.

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. Help us save Vets! We are always looking for volunteers, with various skills, to join the team. If you are a veteran or family member that's in need of assistance; or are interested in volunteering, would like us to speak at your event, or contribute to our mission, call 973-332-1556 or email mdbollio@optonline.net. To learn more visit njvn.org.

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SIP N SHOP IN DOWNTOWN CRANFORD – MAY 12 BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE CRANFORD WOMAN'S CLUB

Please join us in downtown Cranford for an evening of Sipping and Shopping on May 12, 2023!

Admission registration will be at the Wine Garden Tent on Alden Street from 5-7 p.m. and again from 7-9 p.m. The price is \$30 per ticket and includes your goody bag! Inside you will find a wristband, 4 drink tickets to be used at our world-renowned wine garden, and special coupons/offers exclusive to sip and shoppers.

You do not want to miss this great event and fundraiser!

Please be sure to pre-register online for the time slot you desire (see below for online registration details). The time slot is only for access to the wine tent to avoid overcrowding and ensure a great experience, all shoppers are encouraged to shop the entire 4 hours of the event. This event will sell out quickly, so do not wait to purchase your tickets.

You may also pick up your pre-paid goody bag the day before, May 11th, from 5-7 p.m. at 7 Balmiere Parkway, Cranford. This way, you don't waste a single minute of your Sip & Shop adventure!

We all know how important it is to support our local businesses now more than ever, and we would love for our Cranford merchants to feel the love throughout this special evening. We are eternally grateful to them and to the Downtown Management Corp (DMC) for their constant support of CWC. We could not pull off this beloved event without them. Proceeds benefit Cranford Woman's Club philanthropic and scholarship fund.

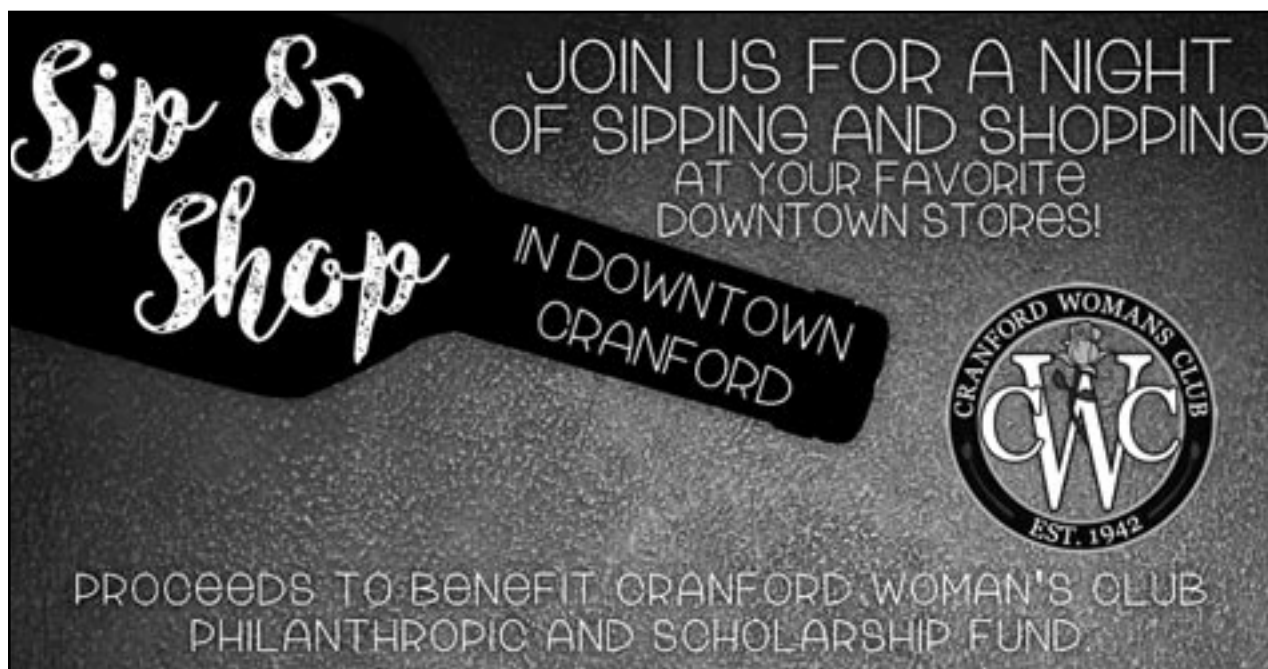
NOTE: Tickets must be purchased in advance and exchanged for admission.

Tickets can be purchased from the Cranford Woman's Club Facebook page (facebook.com/CranfordWomansClub).

EventBrite Tickets are available or email cranfordjwc@yahoo.com for more information.

All are welcome to join the Cranford Woman's Club - for more information visit: cranfordwc.com

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INTRODUCING SGT ANTHONY J. HASCEK, WWII INFANTRY, ONE OF CRANFORD'S 86

Written by Janet Cymbaluk Ashnault, Proofread by Don Sweeney, Military Expertise by Vic Bary

The 86 servicemen from Cranford who never made it home from war are not able to speak for themselves. Vowing that these men will never become “just names”, the Cranford 86 team continues on its mission to tell their stories, one by one. This is the first time that we are profiling a veteran of the Italian Campaign in World War II. After conducting the research to follow this infantry soldier's route across Italy, we were shocked and amazed at what he and his fellow soldiers had to endure. Described here through the experiences of this young man from Cranford, this very critical piece of WWII history and its participants, should never be forgotten.

When I was a very young child, living in our Dietz Street neighborhood in Cranford, I remember a conversation with my father, Myron Cymbaluk. Somehow the subject became WWII and he told me that he lost his buddy in the war. I recall him gesturing towards the end of Myrtle Street, which used to be called Kaplan Street, where the Hascek family once lived. My father served on Guam, and his friend, Anton Hascek, went to Europe “where things were really bad”. The sadness that I heard that day in my father's voice became a memory which has stayed with me throughout my life. When I volunteered for the Cranford 86 project, the thought of my father's friend still lingered in my head. When the time came, I wanted to be sure to do him justice, telling his story as best that we could.

Anthony Joseph Hascek was born in New York City on July 22, 1916 to Katherine and Joseph Hascek. Those who knew him, called him “Anton”. In 1921, Anton was joined by a younger brother, Alfred and the Hasceks moved to Cranford in the 1930's. Anton graduated from Cranford High School in 1936, with his friend “Mere”, Myron Cymbaluk. In the yearbook, it was said that he packed a he-man's punch and was a Golden Gloves contender. Anton liked reading and traveling, was fond of animals and was well-liked by his many friends.

On October 16, 1940, Anton and Mere both went to Local Board No. 5 in Cranford to register for the draft. At the time Anton worked for the Utility Blade Company, which was a razor blade factory on the corner of Centennial and Winans Avenues. On his draft registration, Anton's height and weight were listed as six foot two inches and 134 pounds. No wonder he signed my father's yearbook as “Slim Hascek”!

My father's younger brother, Willie Cymbaluk is currently age 94. According to Uncle Willie, in late 1940, he and my father had gone across the railroad tracks near their home on Dermody Street to cut down a tree. As they were cutting and gathering the wood to take home, Anton Hascek came along and said, “Hey Mere, what do you think about taking a trip to California?” Well, my father dropped everything and took off with Anton to make their plans, leaving young Willie to bring home the tree. If I didn't know better, I would think that Uncle Willie is still mad about that to this day!



(above) A beautiful portrait of Anton, taken for the yearbook, Cranford High School Class of

Perhaps, after registering for the draft, these two young men realized what the future might bring and decided that now, rather than later, was the time to have a little fun and see the country. They ended up in Alhambra, California and worked for a painting contractor. My father told me that he and Anton were still in California when Pearl Harbor was attacked and they both tried to enlist in the military, but were rejected. After a little over a year on the West Coast, they returned home to Cranford and their sightseeing days were over for the moment. Unbeknownst to either of them, they were both destined to see many more new places, courtesy of the United States Army. Despite a war going on, Anton carried on with his life and entered the machinist's trade. He was employed by the Watson-Stillman Company in Roselle, which manufactured hydraulic presses. In November of 1942, his buddy Mere was drafted and Anton apparently became quite enamored with the young lady in his life, Isabelle Phillips, and the two were married on December 16th. A few months later, it was Anton's number that came up and, still very much a newlywed, he was off to serve his country.

Researching a serviceman for a Cranford 86 story has varying degrees of difficulty. Sometimes, the family produces a box from the attic, full of photographs, letters and documents, in which case, we feel that the story has practically been handed to us on a silver platter. Other times, we start with next to nothing and



(above) SGT Anthony Joseph Hascek, United States Army Infantryman, in uniform.

have to rely on our research skills to help us to recreate our hometown hero's tour of duty. In the case of SGT Hascek, it was the latter. We were very happy to locate Anton's nephew, Jeffrey Hascek, living in New Jersey. Although Jeff was only able to provide us with a single letter and an obituary, he gave us his support and gladly sponsored his uncle's banner. Coincidentally, Jeff told me that he too grew up on Dietz Street, as I did, but in neighboring Roselle. Jeff assured me that he walked past my house many times on his way to sleigh ride on the hills that edge the Garden State Parkway.

ANTON HASCEK – US ARMY

After attending boot camp at Fort Meade in Maryland, we believe that Anton went overseas in October of 1943. Most likely he was sent to a replacement depot, where he was assigned to the 36th Infantry Division. The 36th, or “Texas Division” was organized during WWI from units of the Texas and Oklahoma National Guard. As an all-Texas unit, it was sent to the European Theater of Operations in April 1943. Before Anton joined them, the highly-trained 36th had already successfully invaded the European mainland, going ashore near Salerno, Italy. In the bloody battle that took place there, the unit suffered more than 4,000 casualties with the 143rd Infantry Regiment alone losing 1,144 men.

Replacements to the 36th Infantry Division, such as Anton, were often non-Texans and jokingly referred to as “those damn Yankees”.

(continued on page 16)

SGT ANTHONY J. HASCEK (continued from page 15)

Within the 36th, Anton became a part of the 143rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion, Company G, important details to remember while reading his story. Cranford Chronicle articles indicate that he was a machine gunner. With guidance from the director of the Texas Military Forces Museum, we have determined that Anton would have been in the weapons platoon of Company G, armed with a M1919A4 Browning .30 caliber light machine gun.

Italy's involvement in the events of that time was a complicated web of ideology, politics, and diplomacy. They joined WWII in 1940, aligning with Germany. Italy's widespread fighting on multiple fronts, with disastrous losses, led to the collapse of the Italian Empire. Mussolini's Fascist regime ended in 1943, and with the northern half of their country occupied by German troops, Italy joined with Allied Forces and declared war on Germany in that same year.

FIGHTING AMIDST THE OLIVE TREES - THE BATTLE OF SAN PIETRO

The town of San Pietro lies at the threshold of the Liri Valley. The valley presented a wide, flat corridor through the mountains of Italy and possession of this area was of great strategic importance. This is most likely where Anton Hascek experienced combat for the first time. Hoping to gain control of the area, the three battalions of the 143rd attacked San Pietro. Anton's 2nd Battalion, went in from the valley, where the sloping terrain was terraced for the purpose of growing olives. The attack was to begin from the "line of departure" at 0620 on December 8, 1943. In order to be in place on time, the battalion had to leave its mountaintop position at midnight of the 7th. Cold rain and sleet had created muddy conditions, and the route, which was straight down, was described as "one big slide". For nine days, in extremely cold weather, a battle raged until the Germans finally retreated. The 143rd had taken San Pietro,

opening up the valley to the Allied Forces, but not without significant losses.

In a recorded interview obtained from the Library of Congress website, Joseph Massura, also in Company G of the 143rd, spent Christmas Day, 1943 in a foxhole outside the rubble of what had been San Pietro. Joseph described how frequent changes in their location necessitated digging a new foxhole almost every night. The terrain around San Pietro was very rugged and each evening the weary men would begin the arduous task of chipping away at the frozen, rocky ground. In the dark, after a while as the men grew more exhausted, the digging sounds would start to slow down considerably. It only took the firing of one enemy shell to quicken that pace into a frenzy, pushing the men to finish their excavation, which would shelter them for the night. Joseph Massura also described the olive terraces where the trees had been blown to bits. In a visit back to the area in the 1980's, he was glad to learn that olive trees were resilient and would send up shoots from the battered stumps. At the time of his visit, the orchards had rejuvenated themselves and the trees were full of fruit.

Nicholas Bozic was a Forward Observer who was attached to Anton's Company G during the Battle of San Pietro. FO's are responsible for calling for and adjusting artillery fire onto enemy targets. Nick described the hell of encountering machine gun, mortar and sniper fire as he tried to advance up and over each of the olive terraces. Once he had a communications line run to his front position, he was able to do his job, literally, calling the shots. It was apparent that the enemy had radio locating devices, as every time he would call for fire, he would end up getting shelled. Nick couldn't remove his boots at night to sleep, because if he did, they would freeze solid and be impossible to put on in the morning.

DOOMED FROM THE START - CROSSING THE RAPIDO RIVER

After a brief rest in which they received replacement soldiers, the 143rd headed up the Liri Valley with the Texas Division. Deemed to be an insurmountable mission by many who were involved, the 36th was to cross the Rapido River, which was one of the features of the enemy's Gustav Line. A daunting, defensive band of interconnected fortifications, both natural and man-made, the Gustav Line stretched across the narrowest part of the Italian peninsula. Approaches to the Rapido were grassy, level fields, giving plenty of visibility to those in a defensive position. The area was laced with minefields, with some of the mines being of a newer, wooden variety, which were almost impossible to detect. Edged by vertical banks, the cold water of the river flowed swiftly. Elements of three German units awaited them, including two Panzer tank regiments. Two crossing attempts were made, and despite the dogged determination of the troops, both were horrific failures. Anton's battalion was ordered to cross at 2340 hours on January 21st, but his company was held back at the footbridge to protect the rear. We were able to locate an analysis of the Rapido River crossing from Fort Benning's Infantry School. The document detailed all that went wrong, minefields improperly cleared, battalions lost in darkness, smoke and fog, and rubber boats either flipped in the river or rendered useless after being hit by shrapnel. Communication equipment failures and depletion of ammunition also contributed to the chaos. In terms of casualties suffered, the ill-fated river crossing resulted in the most costly 48 hour time period experienced by the 143rd Infantry Regiment during its entire involvement overseas. After the war, at the insistence of the veterans of the 36th Infantry Division, the incident became the focus of a

(continued on page 17)



(above, left) The Epinal American Cemetery in France, is administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission, a US federal agency established 100 years ago. A team of 17 employees, gardeners, masons, administration staff and guides, employed by the US government, is working full time to forever keep this site of remembrance its pristine state. The employees were kind enough to take this photo for us on February 14, 2023. (above, right) In order to more easily read the name on the cross, sand from Omaha Beach is rubbed into the letters. Omaha Beach is where American soldiers first set foot in France on their mission to liberate that country.

(above, left) In a beautiful ceremony in 2018, SGT Anthony J. Hascek's grave was sponsored by the Municipal Youth Council from Anould, France. Anould is a little over a mile from the site where Anton Hascek lost his life. (above, right) Members of the youth group from Anould oversee the raising of the American flag.

SGT ANTHONY J. HASCEK (continued from page 17)

contributed significantly to the defeat of an entire enemy field army. Reports from TF Butler indicate that Company G had captured 600 enemy prisoners at Digne and 1,000 at Gap.

LAST LETTER HOME

Anton's last letter home was written on November 10, 1944. His outfit was stationed in a forest and had been in constant battle for several days. He wrote that they had just been issued their winter clothing which was most welcomed as there was already an inch of snow on the ground. In their long steady advance through France the 143rd targeted their enemy with constant, aggressive action, resulting in frequent skirmishes. During this time, patrols from all units of the regiment were active at night. Joseph Massura, Company G, described that being sent on a night patrol was high adventure, but extremely frightening. You wanted trustworthy people with you, ones that were adept and stealthy and weren't going to run into a tree, drop their gun, or trip in the dark! Patrol members kept 20 feet apart and carried 2 stones in their pocket, using them to click twice to indicate danger. On November 9th, Company G sent out a patrol onto Le Cours mountain, consisting of one officer and eight enlisted men. I often wonder as I read the activities of Company G, was Anton Hascek in this group? A current satellite view of Le Cours mountain shows that indeed, it is a forested area as Anton described to his family.

MAKING THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

And now comes what is always the most difficult part of the story to tell, the events that we believe, led up to our Cranford serviceman's death. The 143rd was in the Le Souche area for an attack which would begin on November 21st. Referring to the map obtained from the US Army Heritage Museum Library, take note of the German fortifications in place at that time. Trenches, tangles of barbed wire, gun emplacements and concrete pillboxes all filled the area through which the Meurthe River flowed. A present-day internet map search did not

find the town of Le Souche. However, we easily found the town of Venchères, which is shown on the 1944 map. Below are excerpts from the actual After Action Reports of the 143rd Infantry. Note again that Anton Hascek was in the 2nd Battalion, Company G:

"On November 22, the 143rd occupied the high ground of Le Souche and west slopes of hill at (map sector) V-443503. By daylight the 2nd Battalion had moved to Le Souche and at 0730, all 3 battalions attacked in their zones of action, meeting strong resistance from machine guns, mortars and artillery. During the morning, the 2nd Battalion advanced considerably, but just after noon, both Companies E and G were counterattacked and pushed back. As the afternoon drew to a close, the 2nd Battalion was well organized beyond the first German defenses and had recovered most of the ground previously lost."

It was an attack that ultimately achieved its goal, but it seems these wins are never without loss. Seventeen men from Company G died that day and tragically, after fighting so hard and for so long, SGT Anton Hascek was among them. SGT Hascek, at the time of his death, with the men of the 143rd, had been in continuous combat operations for four straight months since landing in France in August.

GRATITUDE

Anton Hascek's contribution to Allied victory was significant. In the European Theater of WWII, Italy was the most costly campaign in terms of casualties suffered by infantry forces of both sides. Anton bravely fought his way through that country, participating not only in the battles documented above, but also in bitter, frequent, small-scale fighting around the numerous enemy strongpoints that stood in his way. Allied strength in Italy was vital to the outcome of the war as it occupied German forces which otherwise would have been deployed to France or elsewhere. Our Cranford soldier resolutely continued on to France to finish what he started.

Back at home, when asked to say something about her son, Anton's mom Katherine wanted people to know that he was a lighthearted spirit, one who looked at life and was not afraid. I wonder how my father, still in the service himself, learned of the loss of his good friend. At the time of his brother's death, Alfred Hascek was serving with the US Maritime Service in the Atlantic.

SGT Hascek's body rests in the Epinal American Cemetery in France, located not far from the battleground on which he died. I contacted the cemetery and they assured me that "We are and will always be looking after your soldier, along with all of the others". SGT Anthony J. Hascek's resting place is given additional attention by the Municipal Youth Council from Anould, France, which has sponsored the grave since 2018.

The gratitude owed to men like Anton Hascek and his fellow servicemen is immeasurable. It is what pushes our team to uncover the details of what these men endured for their country and the world. Sharing what we discover is one of the most important things that we can do in their honor. We are very grateful to WWII veterans Joseph Massura and Nicholas Bozic, not only for their service, but for taking the time to share their stories of the 143rd. Their vivid descriptions allowed us to better understand the experiences of our hero from Cranford. These two men were blessed with long lives and lived well into their nineties. But now, all three of these soldiers, Anton, Joe and Nick have been reunited and are together. We wish them peace, and rest, and we salute them.

Please join us on Memorial Day 2023, where, as a part of Cranford's steadfast tradition, we honor the memory and sacrifice of SGT Anton Hascek, along with all of Cranford's 86. As always, we encourage anyone with knowledge of any of Cranford's 86 to contact us at info@cranford86.org or via Facebook at Cranford86.



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ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER DANCE HONOREES

Submitted by John Doolan

The Cranford Knights of Columbus honored Monsignor Tim Shugrue and Mary O'Connor as our Irish Man & Irish Woman of the Year at the 2023 St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance held on March 25th, 2023. We also honored Sgt. Tim O'Brien and Firefighter Ron Marotta of the Cranford Police & Fire Departments.

Our Irish Man of the Year, Monsignor Tim has served as Pastor of St. Michael's Church since 2011 and is also the Worthy Chaplain of our Council. He was ordained a priest in the Archdiocese of Newark in 1973 and in 1996, he was named a Chaplain of His Holiness by St. John Paul II with the title of Monsignor. His appointments and accomplishments are too many to list here, but Monsignor Tim has been very active here in Cranford since coming to St. Michael's. Monsignor Tim will retire later this year and our Council, our Parish and the entire Cranford Community have been blessed to have him serve all of us through his ministry and his community service. Monsignor Tim's close friend Father Daniel Murphy presented him with his award.

Our Irishwoman of the Year Mary O'Connor needs no introduction to the Cranford Community as she has been active both as a volunteer and through her public service on the Township Committee for nine years. Mary grew up in Cranford, attended St. Michael's School and has been active in our Parish Community for many years. Mary moved back to Cranford to raise her daughter Nell and to be close to her family and friends and recently retired from the Summit Public School District. She is a regular volunteer at St. Joseph's Social Service Center and the Community Food Bank and is Co-Chair of the Union County Daughters of Ireland Community Service Committee that supports a number of our local charities and organizations. We are honored to be able to recognize Mary as our Irishwoman of the Year and we have all been blessed to have her as a friend and a dedicated resident of our great town. Jim Byrnes of our

Council presented Mary with his award.

Sgt. Tim O'Brien has served Cranford in our Police Department for 24 years and counting and is an active and big supporter of many charities and worthy causes with his wife Loryn through their businesses Tim O'Brien Painting & Power Washing, LLC and as a real estate agent with the Caldwell Banker Real Estate Agency. Sgt. Joe Stulpin of the Cranford Police Department presented Tim with his award. Ron Marotta has served Cranford in our Fire Department for 45 years and counting in a variety of different positions in town. He has really made a

difference both personally and professionally. Chief Dan Czeh presented Ron with his award.

The Cranford Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Fraternal Organization dedicated to our Four Core Principles, Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. The Cranford Council supports many charities and civic causes locally, state-wide, and nationally and is committed to be a viable part of our community. For information about joining the Cranford Council, please contact our Grand Knight Jerry Conheaney at 908-416-3464 or visit the Council web site at cranfordknights.org.



(above) The Cranford Knights of Columbus honored Monsignor Tim Shugrue and Mary O'Connor as our Irish Man & Irish Woman of the Year at the 2023 St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance held on March 25th, 2023. We also honored Sgt. Tim O'Brien and Firefighter Ron Marotta of the Cranford Police & Fire Departments.

Courtesy photo

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RELIEF FROM CHRONIC KNEE PAIN

FDA Approved Treatment to Avoid Surgery

DON'T BLAME THE ARROW FOR MISSING THE TARGET

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



If Knee Surgery Sounds Scary, It Should

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

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

Consider This Alternative To Surgery

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

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

How Does This New Treatment Work?

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

Do you Suffer from any of these Symptoms?

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

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

Let Me Show You Targeted Relief From Your Knee Pain

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

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

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

Call 732-827-0800

Scot Paris MD, FACS



Here's what our patients have to say

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

- Patricia G.

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

- Perry O.

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

- Quentin L.

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CRANFORD ROTARY GOLF OUTING - MAY 15, 2023

The Cranford Rotary Club will be holding its 33rd Annual Golf Tournament and Reception at Shackamaxon Country Club on Monday May 15, 2023. The proceeds from this tournament will benefit the Cranford Rotary Charitable Fund which provides scholarships to Cranford students each year. Last year the Charitable Fund awarded \$15,000 in scholarships and over the past several years the awards have totaled in excess of \$300,000. In addition, the Cranford Rotary Charitable Fund has made donations to many local non-profit organizations since its inception.

These donations and scholarships are only possible through participation of business and individuals. If you would like to join us for lunch, golf, cocktails and dinner or become one of our sponsorship, our brochure is available at Facebook.com/Cranford Rotary, or you can contact Gene Matics at esmatics@verizon.net. We would like to thank this year's Tournament Sponsor Charles Schwab, Robert J. Graham, III, for their support. The Cranford Rotary Charitable Fund is a 501(c)(3).

NEW LIBRARY DIRECTOR NAMED

The Board of Trustees of the Cranford Public Library is pleased to announce the appointment of Kathryn Cannarozzi as the new Director of the Cranford Public Library.

Kathy began her career as a reference librarian at the Johnson Public Library in Hackensack, NJ, and then served as an Outreach Librarian at the Ridgewood Public Library. Kathy became the first director of the Rochelle Park Public Library after the library became a municipal library and helped the Board, the staff and the community transition to their new status.

Kathy is excited about coming to Cranford, and is looking forward to getting to know the community.

The Board of Trustees would like to thank Asst. Library Director Judy Klimowicz for taking on the role of interim Director and ensuring a smooth transition. Thanks also to the library staff, who are always professional and focused on patron service.

Kathy Cannarozzi will assume her new position on May 1.



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PIKTORS METAMORPHOSIS AT THE SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

The Salem Roadhouse Café presents the Piktors Metamorphosis, Saturday, May 20, 2023. The doors open at 7:15 p.m., show starts at 8 p.m. Admission is \$20 and includes show, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, and dessert. The venue is located in the basement of Townley Presbyterian Church, 829 Salem Rd, Union, NJ. The Roadhouse operates as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities.

Piktors' Metamorphosis takes you on a journey back to the incendiary sounds of the Jazz/Rock fusion era injecting their improvisational craft. The Jazz/Rock/Fusion heyday of experimental creativity has inspired it's fans and other great musicians alike to push music further to its limits. This exciting music is challenging to execute, understandably a reason why many have not approached it. That is until now. Whether it's exciting tributes or their ambitious original pieces this ensemble delivers with passion and warmth.

Piktors overall sound departs from just another stage show to a level of cerebral and tonal excitement that comes with Fusion rock/jazz. They are masters at what they do, and they continue the traditions of modern fusion started by the likes of Mile Davis, Weather Report and Pat Methany, just to name a few.

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

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, 829 Salem Rd, Union, NJ. 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.

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 Program, Making It Possible To End Homelessness, Camp Johnsonburg, The Music Institute, and others. Thousands of dollars have been raised for these deserving charities.



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FUSION ROCK/JAZZ featuring....

PIKTORS METAMORPHOSIS

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 8:00 PM

DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 PM ADMISSION: \$20.00 STUDENTS \$15.00

Admission includes snacks, beverages, tea, coffee & desserts



All shows are featured on UNION TV34's "UNION AFTER DARK" nightly music series
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CRANFORD LIBRARY PROGRAMS FOR MAY

224 Walnut Ave, Cranford, NJ 07016 • (908) 709-7272 • www.cranfordlibrary.org
 Monday - Thursday: 10 AM - 9PM; Friday, Saturday: 10 AM - 5 PM; Sunday: closed

New Monthly Films

Wednesday, May 3, at 7 pm

Our monthly film screenings are back! Join us the first Wednesday of the month at the Cranford Community Center for an evening movie! We will be showing movies recently released on DVD. Please contact the library for specific film titles. No registration is required.

International Film Screening

Monday, May 8, at 2pm and 7pm

Join us at the Cranford Community Center the 2nd Monday of the month at either 2pm or 7pm for an International film screening. Please contact the library for specific titles. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.

No registration is required.

David Aaron Trio

Thursday, May 11, at 7pm

The David Aaron Trio is exciting, powerful, and perfectly captures the sound and look of the big bands from the Swing era. Join us in the Cranford Community Center to hear America's classic sounds come to life. Clarinetist David Aaron started playing in the 1940s, as a young boy growing up in Irvington, NJ, and never stopped. A performer and educator, he has brought multiple styles of music to audiences of all ages. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Literary Cafe

Saturday, May 13 at 10:15am

Literary Café is a book chat program. The format is simple: Bring a few of your recent favorite books and tell the other members of the group what you like about them. If you don't have a copy of the book you want to talk about, that's okay, too. The books can be new or old, fiction or non-fiction, classic or contemporary. There is no required reading, and you will have the opportunity to learn about books recommended by other group members. Attend as many sessions as you'd like. Admission is free and all are welcome. Refreshments sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. Patrons are welcome to join us at the Cranford Community Center or online.

Theater Project

Saturday, May 20, at 2pm

Live play readings from the Theater Project are back in person! New Jersey's own Theater Project will present a script-in-hand reading of an original short play. The reading will be followed by a question and answer session with the audience, director, playwright and cast. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library and the Union County HEART Grant.

Becoming a Mosaic Artist:

An Unexpected and Exhilarating Journey

Monday, May 22, at 7pm

Join Cranford resident and mosaic artist Nicole McKinney for this fascinating presentation.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.

Florian Schantz Jazz Combo

Wednesday, May 24, at 7pm

We are excited to welcome back the Florian Schantz Jazz Combo for an evening concert at the Cranford Community Center. In addition to the live performance, group members will talk about the music, composers, musicians, instruments, and techniques. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

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WESTFIELD CHAMBER TO HOST SPRING FLING ON MAY 7TH

It is time for the 28th Annual GWACC Chamber of Commerce's Spring Fling in downtown Westfield. The event this year will be held once again on Central Avenue running from E. Broad to North Avenue and will include the parking lot across from the Post Office as well as the section of Lenox Avenue on Sunday, the 7th of May, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. (rain or shine). A fun filled day for all ages, the event will have many diverse food vendors as well as many merchandise vendors. There will be a Kids Zone with rides and a multitude of fun activities to engage the young patrons for the entire day. And there will be a beer and wine café, curtesy of The Crossroads. It is expected that entertainment will be provided by Valencia Music and the New Jersey Workshop of the Arts. Be sure to arrive early and stay for the day. Admission is free.

Central Avenue will be closed to traffic beginning at 6 a.m. from North Avenue to E. Broad Street. Downtown residents on Central Avenue and Lenox are reminded to park in

municipal lots, out of the Spring Fling area.

Please note, pets, skateboarding, bike riding and roller blading are prohibited in the Spring Fling area. This rule is for the safety of attendees of all ages. Spring Fling attendees are also encouraged to park in the South Avenue train station parking lot. This will provide the closest parking to the activity area, with easy access to North Avenue through the convenient underpass at the Westfield Train Station. For further information, please contact the GWACC, 908-233-3021, or visit the website www.gwaccnj.com and look for Street Fairs.

For over 75 years, the GWACC has been connecting commerce and community. The

GWACC promotes the economic prosperity of businesses primarily in Clark, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield. It is the largest association of businesses and nonprofits in our area. Members include business owners, professionals, managers and operators. Membership cultivates the opportunity to build relationships, partner, make referrals, increase business, attend networking session that support the community.

For more info about the GWACC, visit www.gwaccnj.com, or call the office at 908-233-3021 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Our office is located at 212 Lenox Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090.

KENILWORTH STREET FAIR WITH CLASSIC CARS!

JC Promotions

The Kenilworth Street Fair will be held on Sunday, May 21, 2023. The event is hosted by the Borough of Kenilworth. The Boulevard will be closed to vehicle traffic from 14th St. to 24th St. and transformed into a giant block party from 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (a bit earlier closing than our other street fairs so come early).

This event will feature quality exhibitors, a special crafter's section, lots of great food, kiddie rides, a kids area, live music and performances, and local merchants and civic organizations.

SHOPPING

Shop til you drop along the Boulevard with over 100 quality exhibitors selling their merchandise such as jewelry, handbags, sports collectibles, clothing, home decor, and much more. There is a special section with handmade crafts from local and nearby crafters and artisans with unique one-of-a-kind items.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Whether on stage or under our music tents, you will enjoy the sounds of some very talented cover bands, soloists, dancers, demonstrations from the local karate and dance studios and more. It's also a chance to kick back, take a break in the music section that will be filled with tables and chairs for your use.

KIDS ZONE

The children will enjoy this section filled with kiddie bounce rides, slides, and interactive blow-ups, face painters, sand art and kids games, temporary tattoos, and face painting, just to name a few things.

FOOD TRUCKS

As you stroll along the Blvd stop to have a bite to eat and sit at tables in our live music area. Come hungry and enjoy eating carnival food favorites like a sausage & pepper sandwich, cheesesteaks, kettle corn, chicken fingers, ice cream, zeppole, shish kabobs, gyros, fresh-cut fries, fresh-squeezed lemonade, Italian ice, and the many other great gourmet foods from the food trucks.

CAR SHOW

This year's event will again feature a car show of Custom...Classic...Street Rod...Muscle Cars in front of Harding School (Enter from Boulevard & North 14th St./use 426 Boulevard in your GPS). Set up starts after 10 am. Registration - Day of Show. Cars must be registered by 1:00 p.m. to be judged. Trophies for Winners! All Proceeds go to Pride in Kenilworth Committee.

This event is sponsored by Renna Media and Wide Eye Security.

For more information visit jcpromotions.info.

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EMMANUEL CANCER FOUNDATION TO HOST TRICKY TRAY

On Saturday, May 20, 2023, the 9th annual 'Play for Keeps & a Cause' Tricky Tray will be held at Arthur L Johnson High School, 365 Westfield Avenue, Clark, NJ. Enter through side entrance, (near cafeteria, parking lot side). Doors open at 5:30 p.m. First ticket is pulled at 7:30 p.m.

Admission price is \$30 and includes one sheet of 25, tier 1 tickets and one door prize ticket. Purchase online at:

<https://givebutter.com/ECFTrickyTray2023>.

Or mail check to: Emmanuel Cancer Foundation (ECF), 77 Brant Ave., Suite 304, Clark, NJ 07066

There will be hundreds of baskets, 3 tiers of prizes. Bundles, 50/50 raffle and more. Lots of door prizes. Bring your own food and beverages. No alcohol permitted on premises. Coffee, tea, water and cookies will be served.

Stay up-to-date on event information at: facebook.com/events/s/ecfs-tricky-tray/517854203815034/

All proceeds raised during this event will help the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation (ECF) provide

counseling, food, emergency funds, and so much more to these brave children and their families. ECF's goal is to make life more manageable for families who are dealing with the fear, stress, and financial burden of pediatric cancer.

ECF has a headquarters office in Clark and three other regional centers across the state, including in Midland Park, Wall Township and Woodbury Heights.

If you have questions please contact Emmanuel Cancer Foundation via email: mgiblin@emmanuelcancer.org

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO NJ KIDS AND FAMILIES

ECF was founded 40 years ago by Susan and Joseph Vizzoni, a New Jersey couple whose lives were turned upside down by their son's cancer battle and the enormous emotional and financial hardships that ensued. In 1983, two years after Emmanuel's death, the Vizzoni family established ECF to give back to other families experiencing the same pain and offer services that made a vital difference in their daily lives. Based on their

passionate vision, today ECF is committed to being a beacon of light for New Jersey families facing pediatric cancer.

More than 280 families receive free emotional and advocacy support by professional caseworkers, material donations such as food, clothing, toys, household items and birthday and holiday gifts, and emergency financial assistance. Nearly 60 % of ECF families live below the poverty level, and a cancer diagnosis only exacerbates precarious financial situations and increases already sky high stress. Services are tailored to a family's unique needs, and ECF will stay by their side for as long as needed, whether one month or 10 years.

Do you know a family who is in need of our services? Please refer them to us because we can do so much to lift their burdens and guide them through their cancer ordeals. Our help begins with the first phone call. Our only requirements is that the child be 18 or under and live in the state of New Jersey. Visit emmanuelcancer.org for more information.

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN FOR HANSON PARK CONSERVANCY

The 2023 membership campaign for Hanson Park Conservancy has commenced.

Hanson Park Conservancy is a non-profit organization begun in 2004 by a group of Cranford Citizens to support efforts to upgrade and maintain Hanson Park and to provide guidance and support to the preservation of the Cranford Canoe Club building, the last remaining Canoe Club.

The Conservancy continues to provide ongoing maintenance of the park. We have successfully partnered with schools, local community groups and others to provide financial and volunteer support for the park. We are pleased to announce that through the Jan Lilien Education Fund, made possible by

donations in memory of the late Jan Lilien of Cranford, it will provide educational programs on sustainability and environmental awareness.

The Conservancy hosts the Annual Rubber Duck Race each year and is a co-Sponsor of the Annual Pumpkin Carve Out with Jersey Central Art Studio and the Cranford Jaycees.

Exciting programs and park features are being planned for 2023; please join us!

A 2023 membership form can be found on the Conservancy's website at hansonparkconservancy.com.

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DAUGHTER'S KIDNEY DONATION SAVED HER MOM'S LIFE

NJ Sharing Network

Twenty years ago, Rosemarie Hampp, 58, made the loving decision to donate one of her kidneys to save her mother's life. Today, Rosemarie is forever thankful for that decision, and she is now on a personal mission to support NJ Sharing Network, the nonprofit organization responsible for the recovery and placement of donated organs and tissue in the Garden State.

"My goal is to save and enhance more lives because there are nearly 4,000 people in New Jersey waiting for a life-saving transplant," said Rosemarie. "I believe that everyone should consider being a living organ donor or simply register as an organ and tissue donor to make a positive difference in the lives of others after your time on Earth is done."

Rosemarie's fundraising efforts to support the Sharing Network Foundation have been powered by many of her family members and friends who are participating in the 5K Celebration of Life on May 20 in Ocean Grove. "Team Rosie," named in honor of Rosemarie's mother (Rose Marie Hampp), was established earlier this year to



(above) Rosemarie Hampp recently celebrated the 20 Year Anniversary of her kidney donation to save her mother's life. Rosemarie creates colorful Donate Life stickers to raise awareness. To support Rosemarie's efforts, visit events.njsharingnetwork.org/go/TeamRosie23.

Courtesy photo

celebrate the 20th anniversary of Rosemarie's life-saving gift.

"My mom lived a healthy and happy life until she was diagnosed with primary amyloidosis," said Rosemarie. "Her health issues grew progressively worse and dialysis treatments were never easy."

Once Rosemarie learned about the possibility of being a living kidney donor for her mother, she was eager to move forward with hopes of giving her mother the gift of life. However, her parents did not want her to donate her kidney.

"Even though I knew they were against it, I secretly got tested for transplant compatibility," said Rosemarie. "When the results showed that I was a great match, I was a nervous wreck because I was not sure how I was going to tell them about it."

Although Rosemarie's mother was hesitant at first, she finally agreed. The successful kidney transplant was completed by the medical team at Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center on December 17, 2003. Rosemarie's gift gave her mother several additional years to enjoy life's precious moments.

"We named my donated kidney 'Fred,' and we called my remaining kidney 'Ginger' because they worked well together and individually," said Rosemarie. "My mom ultimately passed away in 2006 due to pancreatitis. It was unrelated to her transplant, and her kidney always worked perfectly."

Rosemarie has also used her professional art skills to create colorful Donate Life stickers to raise additional funds and awareness. To support Rosemarie's efforts, visit events.njsharingnetwork.org/go/TeamRosie23.

According to United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), over 100,000 people in the U.S. are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant, and 17 people in the U.S. die each day waiting for an organ transplant. To learn more, get involved and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit NJSharingNetwork.org.


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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
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700	\$3000
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000	\$3400
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GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS OF STUDENT ATHLETES

CRANFORD MONTHLY • Page 31 • May 2023

Do you want to be a supportive parent to your aspiring athlete? Are you eager to help your child achieve their potential in sports, but are wary of the psychic costs? Caring Contact, the Westfield based crisis line, will host a free presentation on May 4th entitled "How to Reap the Benefits of Youth Sports Without Losing It All". The program will be held at 7 - 8:30 p.m. at the Westfield Memorial Library.

Linda Flanagan, author of Take Back the Game, will moderate a discussion with collegiate athletes Katie McCafferty Rathbun and Andrew Garstka, along with New Providence High School Student Assistance Counselor David Chango, on how families can

best navigate competitive youth sports.

The event is free but space is limited. To register, visit events.wmlnj.org/event/10508930. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions of the panel.

Caring Contact is an award-winning, volunteer-staffed crisis hotline and listening community. More than 90 trained volunteers answered over 17,000 calls in 2022 from people in crisis, having suicidal thoughts or simply needing someone to talk to.

If you, or someone you know, are in crisis call 988, the new access code to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. To learn more, visit caringcontact.org. You are Not Alone.

GARDENING QUESTIONS? RUTGERS GARDEN HELPLINE CAN HELP

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. Luckily for us, Rutgers Cooperative Extension has county offices throughout New Jersey. Your county office can be found in the yellow pages or online. Rutgers Garden Helpline is staffed by trained volunteers to assist the citizens of their county with continuing educational opportunities supplied by Rutgers agricultural department agents 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.

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 population continue to grow in New Jersey. Along with garden critters the Helpline will identify house infesting insects such as carpenter ants, termites and food infesting pests.

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