

CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ

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CRANFORD'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY QUILT DEDICATION

Cranford Township

A handmade quilt was dedicated March 14, 2024, commemorating Cranford's 150th Anniversary. Cranford was established March 14, 1871. Local organizations each contributed a handmade fabric square that was then assembled and quilted by Ellen Hess, a local resident and professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT).

"This is a gift to the town from these organizations," said Jeffrey Pistol, member of the 150th Anniversary committee.

The 150th Anniversary quilt is the second in a pair of quilts commemorating Cranford, each hung on the rear wall of the Township Committee chambers in the Municipal Building. The first quilt was crafted to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of Cranford. "To know they'll be here for years to come, it is a very exciting thing to look at. It's a great thing we all take our history serious in the town. It will give residents something to remember us by," Township Commissioner liaison to the 150th Anniversary committee Paul Gallo said.

"This tells the government what all these groups are doing, from the church, to the police and fire departments, and the seniors, there is a lot happening on this quilt. This is Cranford...these are the people who made this town what it is," said Loretta Smith, 150th Anniversary committee member. You can watch the full video presentation on Cranford TV-35.



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(above) Township Administrator Lavona Patterson, with 150th Anniversary members Jeffrey Pistol, Loretta Smith and Ellen Hess, and Township Commissioners Kathleen Miller Prunty and Paul Gallo.

Courtesy photos



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55TH ANNUAL VALOR AWARDS LUNCHEON

The 200 Club of Union County

Cranford Police Department Patrolmen Christopher Folinusz and Ryan McSharry will be among those honored at the 55th Annual Valor Awards Luncheon to be held on Friday, May 17, 2024, from 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., at the Hilton Garden Inn Springfield, 304 US-22, Springfield, NJ. Tickets are \$100pp and can be purchased at uc200club.org. Fourteen Local Heroes will be honored, and student scholarships will be awarded.

The Two Hundred Club Medal of Valor Award is a prestigious honor reserved for the courageous Police and Firefighters of Union County who have gone above and beyond in the line of duty. Each spring, our Annual Spring Valor Award Luncheon is held, attracting hundreds of attendees who gather to celebrate and honor these true heroes. Since 1968, we have recognized over 400 police officers, firefighters, and State Troopers, all of whom have selflessly risked their lives in service of the public good. The Valor Awards Luncheon is also a time to pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. With solemn respect, we honor the memory of those who have given their lives to protect and serve our community.

On the night of December 28, 2023, Officers Ryan McSharry and Christopher Folinusz embarked on a heart-pounding pursuit that would test their courage and bravery in the face of danger.

Officer Ryan McSharry spotted a suspicious van, possibly linked to a string of armed robberies terrorizing Union and Middlesex Counties. After confirming the van was stolen, Officer McSharry sprang into action initiating a pursuit on the Garden State Parkway.

Officer McSharry, joined by Officer Folinusz, engaged in a high-speed chase heading south on the Garden State Parkway. With absolute regard for the public's safety, Officers Folinusz and McSharry maintained pursuit until the suspect attempted to exit the GSP at a high rate of speed causing the vehicle to veer out of control and collide with a guard-rail.

Immediately after the crash, the suspect emerged from the vehicle firing a semi-automatic weapon. Officer Folinusz bravely confronted the threat head-on. In a split-second decision, he put himself in harm's way to protect his fellow officer and innocent civilians traveling on the active motorway. At which time Officer Folinusz sustained a gunshot wound to the arm. Officer Folinusz and Officer McSharry returned fire, ultimately eliminating the threat. Once the scene was secure, Officer McSharry acted quickly to apply a tourniquet to Officer Folinusz's arm.

It was later discovered that the suspect had an extensive criminal history and was known to have carried out multiple armed robberies at convenience stores and gas stations in the months leading up to his arrest, including a robbery on Christmas Day at a Clark Exxon Station.




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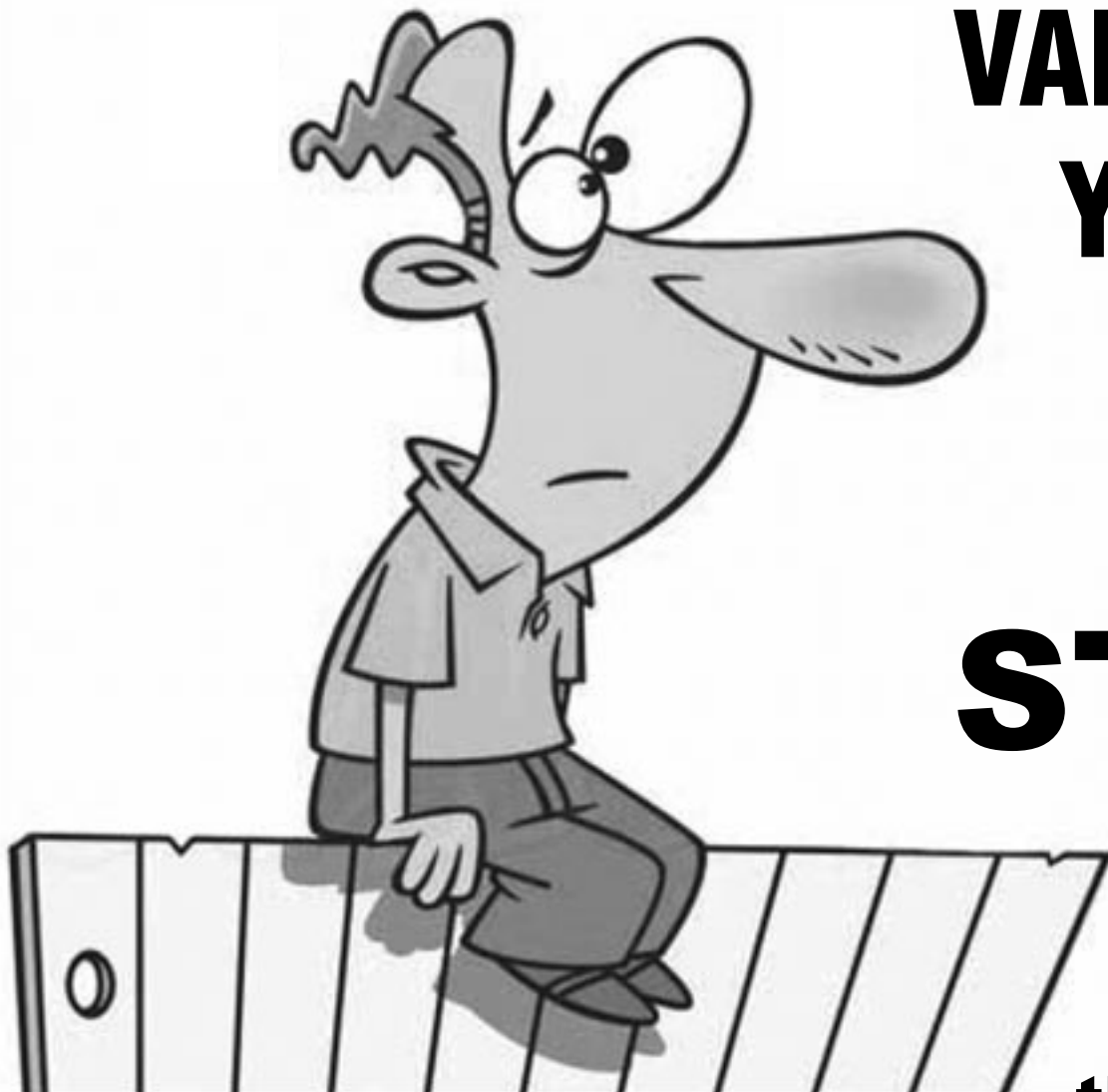
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ARROW OF LIGHT AWARD CEREMONY



Pack 137 - Den 6 held an Arrow of Light Award Ceremony, and the Webelos to Scouts BSA Crossover Ceremony, at the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford on Sunday, March 24, 2024. The Arrow of light is the highest rank in Cub Scouting, which prepares a Webelo Scout to join a Boys Scout of America Troop. The

crossover ceremony signifies the transition to the new level of scouting. Representatives from Boy Scout Troops #75 included Aaron R., Isaiah M., Jack H. Vincent S., and Julian D. and Troop #80 assisted with the setup, ceremony and clean up for this event.



Photos by Kenya Mutyanda

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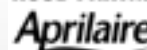
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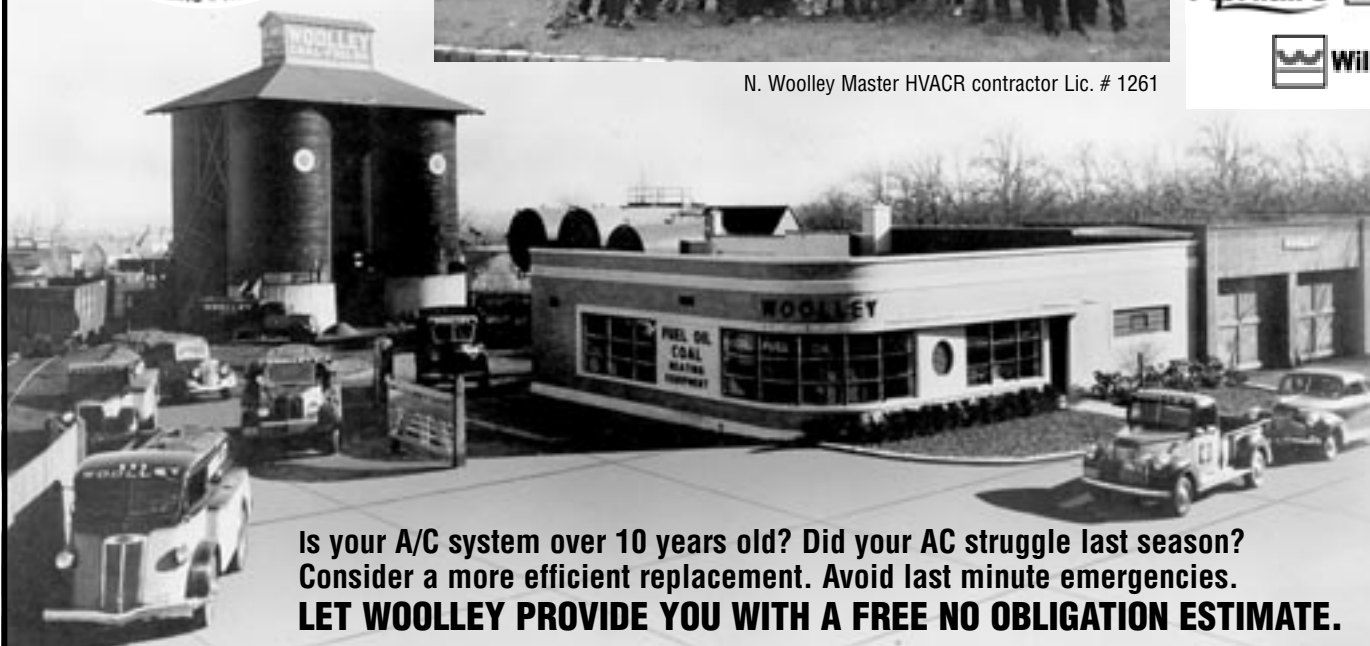
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JAY FLANAGAN, GRAND MARSHALL OF 2024 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Cranford VFW Post #335

Cranford VFW Post #335 has proudly announced that this year's Grand Marshall of the Annual Memorial Day Parade will be 29-year town resident and lifetime VFW member, Jay Flanagan. Post Commander Mark Schwartz confirmed, "There are few members in our Post that are as deserving as Jay Flanagan. An active

member and a great veteran, it is truly an honor for us to have him lead our parade this year"

Drafted in January 1968, Flanagan is a Viet Nam combat veteran, serving there from June of 1968 till June of 1969. He was a Sergeant (E-5) and fought with the 198th Light Infantry Brigade of the Americal Division and received the Viet Nam Campaign medal with a silver star attachment for taking part in 5 different campaigns. He is a former Captain in the Elizabeth Fire Department who was also named the Director of the Department before retiring in 1992. Jay was also National Commander of the Americal Division Veterans Association from 2010 – 2012 and personally established a Facebook group of Americal veterans so that

family and friends could connect and remember those who had paid the ultimate sacrifice.

This year's parade will be held on Monday, May 27th and the lineup for the parade begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Community Center at 220 Walnut Avenue with the march commencing 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.



(above) Veteran Jay Flanagan is the Grand Marshall of the 2024 Cranford Memorial Day Parade

Courtesy photo

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CRANFORD WOMAN'S CLUB SIP & SHOP - FRIDAY, MAY 10TH

Cranford Woman's Club is proud to announce it's 10th Annual Sip & Shop in downtown Cranford. Join them for an evening of Sipping and Shopping on Friday, May 10 from 5 to 9 p.m. rain or shine. Enjoy an evening of shopping with great offers from downtown merchants. Your ticket purchase includes 2 tricky tray tickets, special offers booklet and entrance to the wine tent. It's a great opportunity to purchase Mother's Day gifts too.

In honor of the Sip N Shop's 10th Anniversary, some merchants will hold in-store giveaways so plan on being in town longer than your two hour wine tent slot! There will be a lot to see and do.

The price is \$35 per ticket and includes a goody bag. Inside you will find a wristband, 4 drink tickets to be used at the wine garden, 2 tricky tray raffle tickets and special offers exclusive to sip and shoppers. Our tricky tray is being held in partnership with Bosom Buddies and will include items you, your family, and friends will love. Spend some time (&money) on yourself before Mothers Day. You do not want to miss this great event and fundraiser!

Please be sure to pre-register for the time slot you desire. The time slot is only for access to the wine tent to avoid overcrowding and ensure a great experience. Please note, you will only gain entrance for wine based on your ticket time. We encourage all participants to shop and dine in Cranford throughout the entire evening. Please plan to arrive as close to 5 p.m. as possible to ensure enough time to experience all the event has to offer this year. This event will sell out

quickly, so do not wait to purchase your tickets.

We all know how important it is to support local businesses. We hope our merchants and restaurant owners will "feel the love" on this special evening. We are eternally grateful to them and to the Downtown Management Corp (DMC) for their ongoing support of CWC. We could not

pull of this beloved event without them and the local community. Proceeds to benefit Bosom Buddies, Cranford Woman's Club philanthropic and scholarship fund.

NOTE: Tickets must be exchanged for admission. Ticket sales are available through ZEFFY or find the Cranford Woman's Club on Facebook page. No refunds.

THE CRANFORD WOMAN'S CLUB:

The Cranford Woman's Club, founded in 1949, is a "volunteer organization richly rooted in the tradition of giving back to the community and its residents. While our common goal is enhancing the quality of life in our community, one of the many benefits is the lifelong friendships we make along the way." Last year the club donated over \$30,000 in cash and goods to the community, including five scholarships to graduating Cranford Seniors. For more information visit cranfordwc.com.





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EASTER HYMN FESTIVAL - MAY 19TH

Join in a rousing afternoon of hymn singing on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at 4 p.m., at Trinity Episcopal Church, located at the corner of North and Forest Avenues in Cranford, led by Music Director and Organist, Anthony Rafaniello. Entrance to the Easter Hymn Festival is a suggested donation of \$15, which includes the opportunity to request a hymn from The Hymnal 1982, the primary hymnal of The Episcopal Church. The hymn requests will be pulled at random and sung by all during the hymn festival. You can also sponsor an entire hymn before the event by donating the amount of the hymn's number in The Hymnal 1982. More information is available at trinitycranford.org/easter-hymn-festival.

This fun musical event is an opportunity for all attendees to sing some favorite hymns of the Easter season and enjoy making music together. The fundraiser will support the work of Trinity Episcopal Church, and will also benefit the James Lenney Memorial Choral Scholarship, which is awarded to a Cranford High School senior each year. James Lenney served as Choirmaster and Organist at Trinity Church for 30 years, as well as the Choral Director at Cranford High School for 38 years. The scholarship was established in Mr. Lenney's name in 2013.

MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM BALLET BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Prepare to be enchanted once again! American Repertory Ballet (ARB) proudly announces the return of Ethan Stiefel's celebrated production of A Midsummer Night's Dream, May 10-12, 2024 at the New Brunswick Performing Arts Center.

"This production was made during my first year as ARB's Artistic Director, and it truly represents the overall vision we wanted to kickstart at the time," says Stiefel. "Its blend of artful, athletic, whimsical and heartfelt movement and storytelling absolutely encapsulates ARB, and what makes both the show and the company wholly authentic. Simply put, our A Midsummer's Night Dream production is as unique as our artists and our repertoire."

This timeless tale, set to Felix Mendelssohn's iconic score with additional music written for film by Erich Wolfgang Korngold, promises to transport attendees into to a magical forest filled with fairies, elves, mischief, romance, and joy. Audiences of all ages will once again be cheering, laughing out loud, and mesmerized by

the ballet's whimsy and crisp storytelling. There is no better way to celebrate Mother's Day weekend!

With scenery by award-winning designer Howard Jones, lighting by Joseph Walls, and original costumes by ARB's Resident Costume Designer Janessa Cornell Urwin, Shakespeare's beloved masterpiece receives a modern transformation. The cast will feature the entire ARB Company alongside trainees from Princeton Ballet School.

For ticketing and information, please visit arballet.org
A Midsummer Night's Dream
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Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 2 pm and 7 pm
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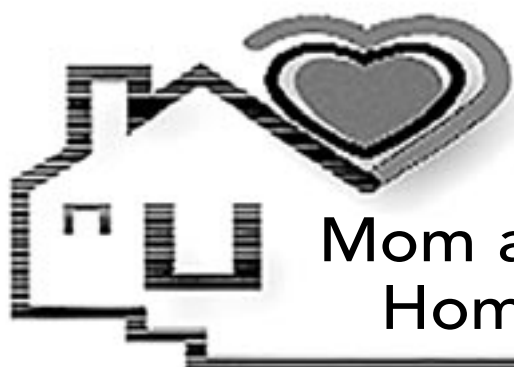
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CARE PACKAGE COLLECTION FOR DEPLOYED TROOPS

Cranford VFW Post #335

As part the VFW Annual Day of Service, Cranford's VFW Post #335 has announced that it is running a "Care Package" drive for our troops now deployed to the Mideast. The Westfield Armory has recently sent two units there and the Cranford VFW has two of their own members among those sent in harm's way.

The collection will be held on Saturday May 4th from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Post Home located at 479 South Avenue in town. It is located next door to the TD Bank on South and Centennial Avenues.

Please keep in mind that all packages will be going to hot weather regions. Please avoid anything that can melt or is temperature sensitive. Items that the Post suggests are:

- Water flavoring powders like Gatorade or Liquid IV.
- Individually wrapped snacks, such as protein bars or granola bars.
- Sunflower seeds, nuts, beef jerky
- Books, magazines, crossword puzzles, pens and pencils
- A letter or picture to the service member to accompany your donations would be welcomed as well.

The Post 335 members deployed are Cranford resident Michael Sojka, who is also a Captain on the Roselle Police Department, and Michael LaCombe a Rahway resident, who coincidentally had Nicole, his second child born recently, while he was away.

The VFW has also brought back from years ago, it's "Flag Exchange Program". Any "Care Package" donor who also brings in a used American flag, will get a brand new 3X5 flag in exchange for free. This exchange program was very successful in the past and the Post is hoping it will help bring added backing for our troops.

A few weeks ago, the Cranford VFW sent 11 substantial packages to our troops and the response received back from them was nothing short of extreme gratefulness. It goes without

saying, the cost of sending the packages via the US Post Office can be daunting. All monetary donations are gladly accepted to help defray the postal expenses.

The Cranford VFW thanks our greater community for their support in this truly important project. Given the recent events over there, the showing of a strong commitment to our troops and their service to our country means more now than ever. For more information, please visit VFW335.org.



(above, l-r) VFW members (Mark Pollock, Jay Boxwell, Braulio Lorenzo and John Aslanian gives the thumbs up for a job well done on making care packages recently. Owen Pollock(12) and Adeline Pollock(7) (at center) were of course in charge.

Courtesy photo

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ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER DANCE

Submitted by John Doolan

The Cranford Knights of Columbus held our Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance at St. Michael's School Gymnasium on March 23rd, with a great group of friends and supporters in attendance.

This year, the Council honored two of our own as Irishmen of the Year as well as a member of the Cranford Police Department and a great friend and supporter of the Cranford Fire Department. Our Irishmen of the Year are Past Grand Knight Brian Egenton and Brother Knight Rich Pierce who are recognized for their dedication and support of our Council and the Cranford community. Both of our honorees have made a profound impact with their efforts to make a difference here in Cranford, in New Jersey, nationally with our Council and on their own.

Our Cranford Police Officer of the Year is

Officer Tom Bell, he is a great friend to our Council, is a Brother Knight and for his volunteer work with the Cranford PBA, the Kenilworth Knights of Columbus and as a piper with the Union County Police & Fire Pipes & Drum Corp. Tom has proudly served the people of Cranford for well over 20 years as a police officer protecting our community honorably and professionally.

Our Cranford Fire Department (CFD) honoree Tim Wahl is a Cranford resident and a long-time employee of PSE&G who stepped up and assisted the CFD in a time of need. The department Rescue Truck has a generator on it that is used and needed for many different calls received by the Department. Tim volunteered on his own time and fixed the generator enabling the truck to stay in service and buy some time until a new replacement truck could be ordered and placed in service. Tim is also active in the

Cranford Soccer Club serving as the Vice-President of Operations.

With the proceeds of the dance, the Council will donate \$4,500 to Homes for Our Troops, Inc. which is an organization that builds smart homes for severely disabled post 9-11 veterans and their families. The Cranford Knights of Columbus and all Councils here in the US are dedicated in support of our veterans and first responders always, and especially in their time of need.

The Cranford Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Men's Fraternal Organization dedicated to our four core principles, Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. Our Council supports many worthy charities and civic causes and is committed to being a viable part of our community. For information about joining the Cranford Council, please contact our Grand Knight Kevin Cumiskey at 973-390-9327 or visit our web site cranfordknights.org.



(above, l-r) Chaplain Monsignor Tim Shugrue, with honorees Tim Wahl, Tom Bell, Rich Pierce and Brian Egenton.



(above, l-r) Tim Wahl, Fire Chief Dan Czeh, Police Officer Tom Bell and Captain Matt Nazzaro.

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WE CAN HELP

INTRODUCING STANLEY H. SMITH, U.S. NAVY YEOMAN SECOND CLASS ONE OF CRANFORD'S 86

Written by Janet Cymbaluk Ashnault, Proofread by Don Sweeney, Research by Stu Rosenthal
and Janet Cymbaluk Ashnault, Military Expertise by Vic Bary

The Cranford 86 project operates almost entirely by donations. At times we are blessed with generous monetary gifts from local organizations, such as Cranford Knights of Columbus, Cranford Jaycees and the Cranford Historical Society. But, mainly it is the benevolence of our individual supporters who sponsor banners, purchase tribute books and t-shirts or place a few dollars in our donation jar on Memorial Day. These are people who believe in our mission and want to ensure that long after we are all gone, the 86 men from Cranford who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, do not become “just names”. When our job is finished, each of the 86 will have a face put to their name and the story of their life, their military service and their death, published in print and online. A few years back, Cranford residents Don Smith and his wife Loretta were kind enough to sponsor not one, but two banners for the Cranford 86 servicemen who share their surname, Roderick W. Smith Jr. and Stanley H. Smith. Don and Loretta are long-time supporters of our project and Don is a retired U.S. Army colonel. The Smiths have been patiently waiting to learn the stories of these two brave men, the first of which, that of Stanley H. Smith, we bring to you here.

RESEARCHING OUR HEROES

A routine part of our research methodology includes creating a basic family tree for each of our Cranford 86 servicemen. We use the power of Ancestry.com and its affiliates to establish facts about family members, residence, occupation and military service and to also connect us with others that are researching this same person. All of this information is needed to connect the dots and validate our findings. Ancestry will also find newspaper articles from all over the country that make mention of our Cranford heroes. This, combined with the Cranford Public Library's searchable archives of over 100 years of our own local newspaper and Cranford High School yearbooks, can give us substantial information about our serviceman, even if we are flying blind, without the help of a family member. Stanley H. Smith lived over 100 years ago and with such a common surname, we knew that we had a bit of a challenge ahead of us. Luckily, Stanley's middle name, Hartwell, is a bit unusual and we are grateful that it was used quite a bit.

It was somewhat surprising when the information that we began to collect took us far from Cranford, to northwestern Pennsylvania, and we hoped that we were barking up the right tree. In 1900, “a” Stanley Smith lived with his parents, his brother Wilbur and seven other siblings in Hamlin Township, Pennsylvania. The father, Elonzo I. Smith was a stone mason and this Stanley Smith was age 13 at the time, an appropriate age for someone who eventually might serve in the First World War. We also made note of a newspaper article from 1900 where

Stanley and Wilbur Smith were listed as attending intermediate school in the somewhat nearby town of Emporium, Pennsylvania. In 1910, Stanley is not living with his family and in both the 1920 and 1930 censuses, after Stanley Hartwell Smith's death, we see that this family has moved to Sugar Grove, Pennsylvania.

STANLEY'S HIGHER EDUCATION

Although we are not yet sure how this will bring us to Cranford, things start to connect when we find the “Commencement Issue” of The Citizen newspaper from Berea, Kentucky. The commencement referred to is that of Berea College on June 6, 1916 and Stanley Hartwell Smith from Emporium, Pennsylvania is noted as a graduate from the “Academy Department”. This fact, linking Stanley Hartwell Smith to the town of Emporium, helps to confirm his connection to the large Pennsylvania Smith family that we mentioned above. Berea College still exists today and back in 1916 it was touted that the school's tuition cost had not increased in twenty-four years, and that “schooling at Berea is still within reach of every family that has grit and common sense”. The newspaper describes the joyful events of commencement weekend and we see that Stanley is part of the entertainment with his portrayal of King Claudius in a production which includes a scene from Hamlet. The gaiety of this issue of The Citizen, reflected hope of a bright future for each of the Berea graduates. However, lurking here and there within the newspaper's pages were some ominous words regarding the war which had been raging overseas for the past two years. In 1916, the United States of America was not actively involved in the conflict, but we wonder how much the possibility of war weighed on the minds of these young people.

STANLEY ENTERS LAW SCHOOL AND AMERICA JOINS THE GREAT WAR

The Great War, as World War I was referred to at the time, had begun in 1914 and its conflicts occurred in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and at sea. Beginning when Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, many countries were drawn into the conflict pitting the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria) against the Allies (France, UK, Russia, Italy, Japan and eventually, the U.S.). Historians dispute as to what triggered President Woodrow Wilson to enter our country into this war, but most agree that attacks made by German submarines on U.S. passenger and merchant ships in 1917 was the primary motivation.

Following his graduation from Berea, Stanley Smith, aspiring to enter the legal profession, enrolled in law school at the University of Kentucky. From the few photos that we have of Stanley, he does look like a large, well-built fellow. This fact was confirmed, in our opinion, when we discovered that his nickname at school was “Tiny” a moniker apparently bestowed to him playfully, rather than accurately. Stanley was



(above) Stanley H. Smith, AKA “Tiny” at the University of Kentucky. Stanley would have graduated with the Law College Class of 1919, had he not given his life for our country. “All who knew Stanley Smith say they never came in contact or were associated with a finer young man, a youth who promised much”

a member of the Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity, as well as the Pi Kappa Alpha social fraternity and was well-known on the Lexington campus. He made good use of his spare time performing stenographic work in the university's main office. The trajectory of Stanley's life, along with so many others, was changed on April 6, 1917, when the U.S. joined the Allies and declared war against Germany. For the next nineteen months the United States would be embroiled in bloody battle on land, sea and in the air. When the call for volunteers went out, Stanley Smith was in his second year of law school, destined to graduate in the class of 1919. As with so many of our Cranford 86 stories, I am left in awe when these young people with promising, fulfilling, prosperous lives laid out in front of them, drop everything, joining our country to fight in a world war. One week later, Stanley Smith, along with classmate William J. Collins, left school and traveled to Cincinnati, Ohio to enlist in the U.S. Navy.

YEOMAN 2C STANLEY HARTWELL SMITH

As the war effort in our country swung into high gear and recruitment accelerated, the Navy needed good people in its administrative positions on board ship. Considering the education that Stanley Smith already had under his belt, the Navy saw fit to designate him as a “yeoman”. Yeomen performed a wide range of clerical type jobs supporting the ship and its

(continued on page 16)

STANLEY H. SMITH, U.S. NAVY YEOMAN SECOND CLASS (Continued from page 15)

personnel. Stanley would have attended Yeoman's School either in Newport, Rhode Island, San Francisco, California or at the New York Navy Yard. The training consisted of a four to six week refresher course in arithmetic, spelling and composition as well as instruction on Navy protocol. A final exam determined eligibility for the advanced training required to work in any of the following departments, supply officer, general bookkeeping, executive officer, pay officer and commanding officer. The list of duties performed by yeomen was endless. For example, in the pay-officer assignment, duties were centered around payrolls and banking and included the computation of salary for officers and enlisted men, including any allowances, bounties, or extra pay, and the preparation of the payroll checks of their shipmates. Yeomen were also responsible for calculating credit and interest on payroll savings accounts. Having strong skills in arithmetic was an absolute requirement in this

department. Well educated from the start, Stanley quickly advanced to the highest paying level of yeoman, Yeoman Second Class (Y2C) and was assigned to serve on the Sampson-class Destroyer, USS Wilkes.

ON THE USS WILKES

It is likely that Yeoman Smith joined the crew of the Wilkes by June 15, 1917, as it left New York City as part of the first American troop convoy sent to Europe. As an escort ship, the USS Wilkes and twelve other destroyers were to ensure safe passage of the convoy to its destination. Four cruisers and two armed yachts provided additional protection for the fourteen merchant steamships, two fuel tankers and three Navy transports which were bringing cargo to France. The ships were filled with American troops, materials, draft animals, and supplies. The group was originally headed for Brest, France, until they were fired upon and enemy torpedoes surged through the convoy, barely missing several

ships. Passive sonar aboard the Wilkes (passive meaning that it only listens and does not emit its own signal), detected U-boats nearby. The ships scattered and regrouped the next morning, eventually safely arriving at Saint-Nazaire, France on June 26th. I would imagine that this convoy was manned with a high percentage of brand new recruits who had just gotten their first small taste of warfare at sea.

With a stop in Portsmouth, England, the USS Wilkes voyaged to its permanent European base, Queenstown (now Cobh), Ireland, arriving on July 6, 1917. The Wilkes would operate out of Queenstown for the duration of the war, protecting what was known as the "Western Approaches". Aptly named, the Western Approaches is the area of the Atlantic Ocean to the west of the British Isles. All shipping to these island nations passed through this area and the need for it to be staunchly guarded was great.

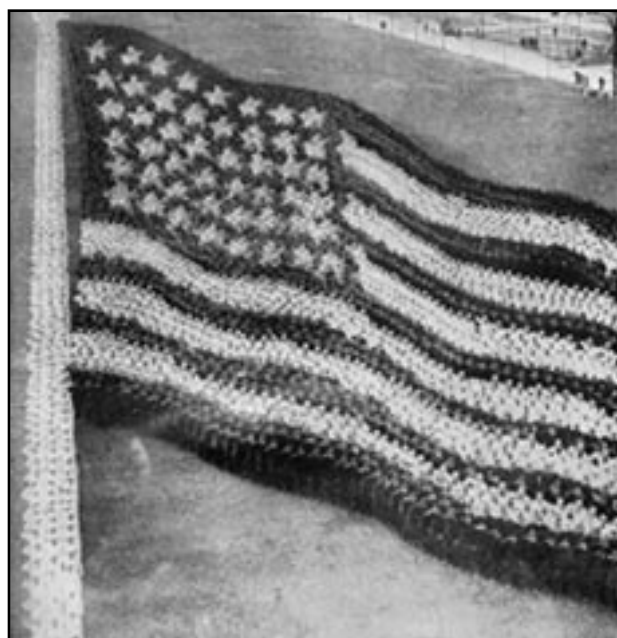
(continued on page 17)



(above) By far, the most charming photograph that we have in our possession is that of WWI Yeoman Second Class, Stanley H. Smith. Wearing a white sailor's cap and dark sweater, Stanley is posed with a small bulldog, a popular mascot at the time. At first glance he appears to be standing on the deck of his ship, but closer scrutiny reveals that he is actually standing in front of a studio backdrop. Photographic portraits of this type were very popular as well as affordable in the early 1900's. Note that Stanley is wearing "puttees", which are leather, or canvas leggings worn for protection and support. Artificial Intelligence is now being used to enhance the old photos from our archives. See our online story at cranford86.org for the full color transformation.

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MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP, N. J.		MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP, N. J.	
ENROLLMENT BY SEX			
AGE	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Under 5 years	100	100	200
5 to 9 years	100	100	200
10 to 14 years	100	100	200
15 to 19 years	100	100	200
20 to 24 years	100	100	200
25 to 29 years	100	100	200
30 to 34 years	100	100	200
35 to 39 years	100	100	200
40 to 44 years	100	100	200
45 to 49 years	100	100	200
50 to 54 years	100	100	200
55 to 59 years	100	100	200
60 to 64 years	100	100	200
65 to 69 years	100	100	200
70 to 74 years	100	100	200
75 to 79 years	100	100	200
80 to 84 years	100	100	200
85 to 89 years	100	100	200
90 to 94 years	100	100	200
95 to 99 years	100	100	200
100 years and over	100	100	200
Total	1000	1000	2000

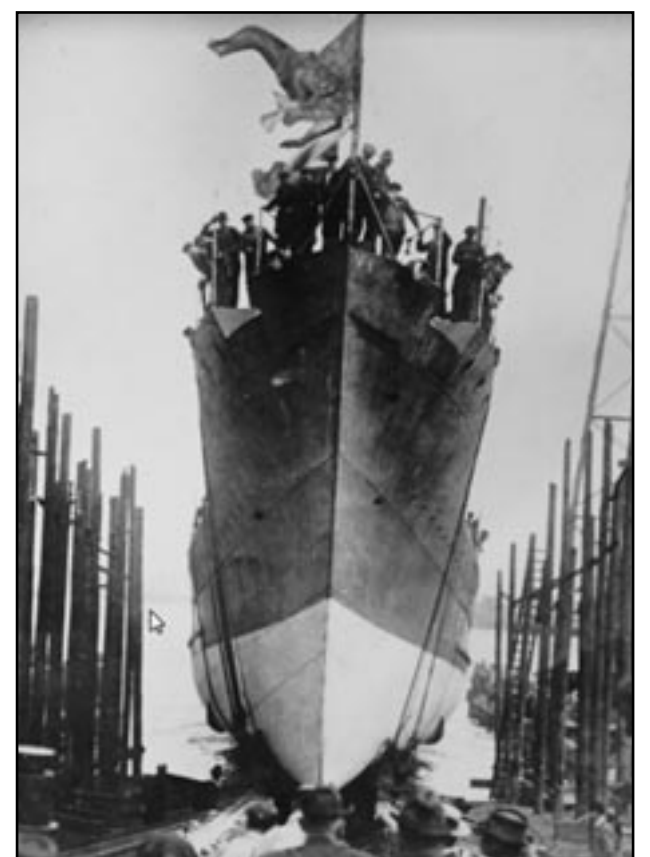
(above) In 1910, we may have found Stanley working as an Officer/Attendant in Montgomery Township, N.J. at the New Jersey State Village of Epileptics. The facility was created to provide a place for those afflicted with epilepsy, keeping them out of insane asylums or other less decent institutions of those times. The village was completely autonomous and the men in Stanley's care were farm workers there. The Stanley Smith shown here is the correct age and is from Pennsylvania, but we would need more facts to be sure that this was indeed Stanley Hartwell Smith.



(above) U.S. involvement in The Great War required the largest mobilization of its military since the Civil War. A way to keep morale and spirits high, human flag photos became a "viral" trend. Created with over 10,000 sailors, this photo was taken at Naval Station Great Lakes.



(above) Sailor in foul weather gear clings to a life line as waves wash over the ship's deck. It is easy to see how the power of the sea could quickly take a life.



(above) Taken May of 1917, the launching of the torpedo boat destroyer "Wilkes" at Cramp Shipyards, Philadelphia, PA. The vessel was fitted with four torpedo tubes and two anti-aircraft guns.

STANLEY H. SMITH, U.S. NAVY YEOMAN SECOND CLASS (Continued from page 16)

Ships like the Wilkes were responsible for destroying enemy submarines, protecting and escorting merchant vessels and the rescue of crews and passengers of torpedoed ships. The ship's duty was anything but routine or mundane, and their time was spent mostly at sea in the tempestuous North Atlantic. Most likely, Stanley Smith was an active participant when the Wilkes rescued twenty-three survivors of the SS Purley, a British merchant ship which was torpedoed on July 25, 1917. When the destroyers did get into port for provisioning, it was only for a day or two, and we imagine that the yeomen, just as busy as the rest of the crew, were hustling the documents, receipts, currency, letters, forms, etcetera, that needed to move on and off the ship during this brief time period.

FINALLY, THE CRANFORD CONNECTION

Up until this point in our research, we still did not know how Stanley Hartwell Smith's name ended up on the monument in Cranford's

Memorial Park on Springfield Avenue. It was when we uncovered the sad details of Yeoman Smith's accidental death, that the mystery was solved.

In the U.S. Navy Casualties Book we discovered a very succinctly written passage:

"13 September 1917 U.S.S. WILKES. At about 7:35 p.m. while walking aft on the starboard side of the ship, the following man slipped, fell, went through the life lines and was drowned:- SMITH, Stanley Hartwell Yeoman 2 class"

There was no information regarding weather conditions, ocean swells, rescue attempts or how a man of Stanley's size slipped through the life lines which surround the deck. Although Stanley's parents were alive at the time, his next of kin was recorded by the Navy as: "Aunt, Harriet I. Russell, 25 North Avenue West, Cranford, N.J." A quick check of census records of the Pennsylvania Smith family showed that

Stanley's mother did indeed have a sister Harriet. So with his address of record noted by the U.S. Navy as being in Cranford, this is how Yeoman Second Class Stanley Hartwell Smith became one of Cranford's 86. He was one of America's best and brightest patriotic young men and regardless of whether or not he ever even set foot in our town, we embrace him as our own.

HONORING YEOMAN SMITH

W. T. Lafferty, the dean of the University of Kentucky's College of Law, spoke of Stanley Smith, "as a student and a man, Mr. Smith was strong, able and courageous, bidding fair to do much in his chosen profession".

Certainly a reflection of this man's character, shortly after his death, Stanley's sacrifice was honored in several of the places through which he passed in his life. Designated as lost at sea, his name appears on the Tablets of the Missing at Suresnes American Cemetery and Memorial in France. Stanley Smith was the first University of Kentucky student to be lost in WWI and a plaque on campus there bears his name. In 1925, his fraternity house was renamed "Stanley Hartwell Smith Memorial Hall". Of course, the name Stanley H. Smith appears on Cranford's WWI tablet at Memorial Park. A granite monument in Cherry Hill Cemetery, Warren County, Pennsylvania is inscribed with Stanley's name and his birth and death years. The Warren County Historical Society was kind enough to send us a magazine page indicating that Stanley was the first resident from that county to die in WWI. These memorials are all beautiful and respectful gestures of gratitude. Unfortunately, anyone who comes across one of them today, unless they invest time and effort, will not know much more about Stanley than his name. Born out of Cranford's steadfast Memorial Day traditions, the Cranford 86 project has now reintroduced Stanley Hartwell Smith to all. Via a simple internet search, Stanley's image will appear and his story will be told. We can't think of a better way to thank him for his service.



(above) Yeoman School, New York Navy Yard c. 1910-19. Yeoman's training included the use and proper care of a typewriter.



(above) This granite monument honoring Stanley H. Smith is located in Cherry Hill Cemetery, Sugar Grove, PA, where Stanley's parents are buried. Since Stanley was lost at sea, this type of memorial is known as a "cenotaph", which is defined as "a monument to someone buried elsewhere, especially one commemorating people who died in a war". The word cenotaph is derived from the Greek words meaning "empty tomb."



(above) Newspaper articles like this one from the Lexington Herald, dated Oct of 1917, provided us with a wealth of information. This is how we learned of Stanley's nickname. Note the misspelling of Cranford, in reference to Stanley's aunt who wrote a letter to the university informing them of Stanley's death.

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(above) Cranford VFW Post 335 Honor Guard stands at the ready, waiting to start our 2023 Memorial Day Ceremony when ordered by Honor Guard Sergeant, Braulio Liranzo.

Photo by Robert Bulger

FOLLOW THE PARADE TO THE CEREMONY!

Over one hundred years ago, Cranford VFW Post 335 began a tradition in which generations upon generations of Cranford residents have taken part.

As you are making your plans for Memorial Day weekend, hopefully you are including some time to observe the reason for the Monday holiday. There is no better place to do that than right here in town! Like clockwork, weather permitting, Cranford's Memorial Day Parade will head down Walnut Avenue and make that sharp left turn onto North Avenue, headed towards Memorial Park. White-gloved with shoes shined, the color guard, veterans and first responders will lead our parade, followed by school bands, civic groups, emergency equipment and more. Pay special attention to the 86 flags which, for years, have been carried by our scout troops. Each flag signifies one of the 86 men from Cranford, who died while serving our country during war time. With so many new residents in town, we thought that some spectators might not realize that once the parade has passed, Cranford's Memorial Day observance was not yet over, so a campaign was started to encourage everyone to "Follow the Parade to the Ceremony". We invite you all to pick up your chair, march down the road, and join us at Memorial Park on Springfield Avenue for the most meaningful part of this hometown experience.

A special place in Cranford, Memorial Park will be at its finest on Memorial Day weekend. See the faces of many of Cranford's 86, which will be brought down to eye level as our Hometown Hero banners line the paths. Enjoy the colorful plantings of the Green Thumb Garden Club that beautify each of the park's monuments. Listen to the inspiring words of our speakers, punctuated by music from the Cranford High School band and choir, the playing of Taps, placing of the wreaths and the gun salute. In recent years, as we introduce new banners of our Cranford 86, servicemen's family members have joined us, from near and far, as we honor their loved one. This year, we proudly welcome the Mandoni family as we highlight the service of their uncle, Edward Mandoni, who died in WWII.

With a program that has withstood the test of time, our town's Memorial Day Ceremony will leave you thoughtful and emotional, but extremely grateful to have spent time with fellow residents, remembering our country's fallen on this very important day.

Parade starts at 9:00 a.m. on May 27, 2024, and Ceremony follows at 10:00 a.m.

BE A PART OF THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



Become an important part of a Cranford tradition that dates back over 100 years! Carry one of the 86 Gold Star flags, each one representing one of Cranford's fallen military, in Cranford's Memorial Day parade, on Monday, May 27, 2024.

Our parade begins at 9:00 a.m., is 0.8 mile long and winds through Cranford culminating at Memorial Park. The post-parade ceremony runs from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. and at the ceremony, flag bearers will stand in line and dip their flag when their serviceman's name is called. Perhaps you take note of a Cranford 86 banner which you pass by daily, near your home in one of

Cranford's neighborhoods or your business in Cranford's downtown area. You can honor that hero by carrying his flag on Memorial Day. It is truly special to be able to bring that serviceman's name, back into the streets where he once walked, before giving his life for his country.

On Memorial Day, flag bearers should present themselves in attire that shows respect to our fallen military. An on line sign up will be available sometime in May.

Follow Cranford86 on Facebook to be alerted about that, or call Don Sweeney at 908-447-6511 for further information.

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CRANFORD ELKS LODGE #2006 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Submitted by Melissa Hoffman

The Cranford Elks Lodge #2006 held its Installation of Officers for the 2024-2025 year recently.

This year's officers are Exalted Ruler Adam Smith, Esteemed Leading Knight Michael Weinstein, Esteemed Lecturing Knight Natalie Stevens, Esteemed Loyal Knight Steve Jaskowak, Secretary Anna DiFabio, Treasurer Joe O'Brien, Esquire Melissa Hoffman, Chaplain Alisha Lardieri, Tiler John Smith, Inner Guard Collin Mayer, 1-Year Trustee Kevin McGeehan, 2-Year Trustee Michael Gedman PVP, 3-Year Trustee Carl Gaspar, 4-Year Trustee Bob Brunns, and 5-Year Trustee Kevin Carney PER.

The ceremony was presided over by Past District Deputy Mark Dunnder, who was joined by Past District Deputy Howie Proctor, District Deputy Dan Kretchmer, Past District Vice

President Mike Gedman, District Vice President Hank Bedlivy, Past Exalted Ruler Audrey Smith, Past Exalted Ruler Ken Boudreau, and Past Exalted Ruler John Kretchmer.

Founded in 1871, The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is the largest fraternal organization in the Country with a network of over 2,100 local lodges. The pillars of their mission are to quicken the spirit of American patriotism, cultivate good fellowship, and to serve people and communities through benevolent programs. Since its inception in 1956, The Cranford Elks have donated thousands of dollars and time benefiting special needs children, youth scholarships, active and retired military, and patriotic programs. Please visit elks.org for more information about the Elks and how to join.

Courtesy photo



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 05
Spring Fling
From 10 - 5 rain or shine in Downtown Westfield! Central Avenue will be transformed into a marketplace of vendors, crafters and retail establishments. Come enjoy the culinary delights of our food vendors.



JUNE 02
Garwood Rocks
Center Street in Garwood will be transformed into a marketplace of vendors, crafters and retail establishments. The event will include a huge car show which attracts thousands of fair goers.



JUNE 23
Clark Rock the Block
This block party will feature quality exhibitors, a special crafter's section, a classic car show, gourmet food trucks, a beer garden, a kid's zone, live music and performances, and local merchants & civic organizations.



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(above) Cranford Elks Lodge #2006 Officers for the Years 2024-2025.

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KENILWORTH STREET FAIR - SUNDAY, MAY 19TH

The 2024 Kenilworth Street Fair and Classic Car Show, hosted by the Borough of Kenilworth, will take place on Sunday, May 19th. 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 p.m.

This event will feature quality exhibitors, a special crafter's section, lots of great food, kiddie rides, and 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 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 & kids games, temporary tattoos, and face painting, just to name a few things.

FOOD TRUCKS

As you stroll along the Boulevard 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 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. Set up starts after 10 a.m. 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. For more Car Show Info send email with your questions to: rprflocal3@gmail.com

LOCAL SENIORS ARTS & CRAFT SHOW

At this street fair, local seniors (Age 60 or older) will have an opportunity to show and/or sell their artwork, crafts, and photographs during a Kenilworth Senior Arts, Crafts and Photography Show that will take place at the newly renovated Kenilworth Senior Center. The event, a major highlight of the center's planned grand reopening celebration, coincides with the timing of the Kenilworth Street Fair. Exhibit space in the show will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested participants should register by May 8. Registration forms will be available at the Kenilworth Senior Center and Kenilworth Public Library. For further information, please call Shirley Boyden Maxwell, senior program director, at 908-276-1716.

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A special shout out to our annual sponsors for this event: Renna Media & Wide Eye Security.

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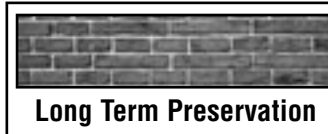
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WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD CELEBRATED IN CRANFORD

Calvary Nursery School & Child Care (CNSCC) welcomed staff, children, and families of Helen K. Baldwin Nursery School and St. Michael's Early Childhood Program on Holly Street for their annual Block Party & Ice Cream Social in celebration of the "Week of the Young Child" on April 10, 2024.

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 united for a special hands-on event featuring a petting zoo, Bubble Show, a "Celebration of Literacy" obstacle course run Lauren Antolino, the Head of Children's Services at the Cranford Public Library, and the Cranford Township Police and Fire Departments with their vehicles for over 350 children to explore.

Cranford's Mayor Brian Andrews commented, "We know how important early education is for future success. Cranford is blessed to have so many wonderful institutions to help our children learn, grow, and have fun. Thank you to Calvary Nursery School & Child Care, Helen K. Baldwin Nursery School and St. Michael's Early Childhood Program for recognizing the Week of the Young Child and all you do every day for our community and families."

"Experts tell us that 90% of all brain development occurs by the age of five. The experiences our young children encounter during this time shape 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 who dedicate their lives to working with them."

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



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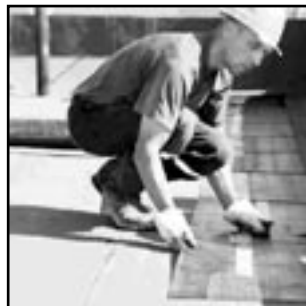
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Made possible by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

The American classic rock-musical Hair, the final production of the 105th season at CDC Theatre, celebrates the sixties counterculture in all its barefoot, long-haired, bell-bottomed, beaded and fringed glory. To an infectious energetic rock beat, the show wows audiences with songs like "Aquarius," "Good Morning, Starshine," "Hair," "I Got Life" and "Let The Sunshine In." Exploring ideas of identity, community, global responsibility and peace, Hair remains as relevant as ever as it examines what it means to be a young person in a changing world.

Controversial in 1968, with its rock music, hippies, nude scene, multiracial cast, and anti-war irreverence, it billed itself as "the American Tribal Love-Rock Musical." Audiences didn't quite know what to make of that. But they figured it out eventually.

To appreciate how unexpected Hair was in 1968, consider what else was playing on Broadway the week it opened: Hello, Dolly!, Man of La Mancha, Funny Girl, and Fiddler on

the Roof. One of Fiddler's signature numbers, of course, is an anthem about the importance of "Tradition." This new musical questioned everything about tradition.

Up until Hair, Broadway's idea of rock music had been the Elvis-like character in Bye Bye Birdie. Galt MacDermot's music for Hair was much closer to the real thing. And the flower-power lyrics of James Rado and Jerome Ragni, like those from the second act's "Three-Five-Zero-Zero", didn't sound like traditional show-tunes either.

This thoroughly American "Tribal Love-Rock Musical" soon became a hit all over the world making rock music something that theater was forced to reckon with. In shows like Jesus Christ Superstar, Grease, Dreamgirls and Rock of Ages, the rock musical became a Broadway genre. Hair got there first.

The show will run weekends from May 3rd through the 19th. For the best selections and prices, visit cdctheatre.org for tickets.

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LEADER IN JUSTICE AWARD FROM THE YWCA UNION COUNTY



(above) Superior Court Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy (Ret.)

Courtesy photo

Cassidy. “The ability for victims of domestic violence to have resources available to them right next to the courthouse was sorely needed. The

YWCA Union County proudly announces Karen M. Cassidy A.J.S.C. (Ret.) Of Counsel Bramnick, Rodriguez, Grabas, Arnold & Mangan as one of the recipients of the Leaders in Justice Award for her work in the family justice field.

“I am honored to have been nominated for this award,” says

Cassidy. “The ability for victims of domestic violence to have resources available to them right next to the courthouse was sorely needed. The

Family Justice Center provides a variety of services to individuals who are facing a multitude of challenges. Having individuals who can assist them at such a confusing and stressful time is invaluable.” Cassidy was appointed to the Superior Court in Union County by Governor Christine Todd Whitman in 2000. She served in the Civil and Family Divisions. She was the Presiding Judge in the Family Division from 2005-2009 and thereafter was appointed as Assignment Judge in February 2009 by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner.

Prior to joining the bench, Cassidy was certified by the New Jersey Supreme Court as a Certified Civil Trial Attorney, recognizing her skills as a trial advocate. Outside of her practice, Cassidy has also been a dedicated community volunteer, having served as an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, serving as a deacon, elder, trustee and part of the vocal and handbell choirs. She also volunteers for the Cranford Elmora Soup Kitchen. She served as a Girl Scout Leader for over 12 years encouraging young girls and teens to achieve their potential.

Cassidy will receive the Leaders in Justice Award at the inaugural Champions for Family Justice Breakfast to be held on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at the Embassy Suites in Berkeley Heights, NJ. Along with her, this prestigious celebration will honor and award the achievements of other community champions who have made significant contributions in the field of family justice.

“The Champions for Family Justice Awards are a great opportunity for us to celebrate all of those who work hard to support families in crisis throughout Union County. We are thrilled to be honoring Judge Cassidy with a Leaders in Justice award” shared Lisa Poris, Director of Union County Family Justice Center.

The Family Justice Center was implemented in partnership and receives annual support by the Union County Board of County Commissioners

and the Union County Department of Human Services. Each year, hundreds of victims of domestic violence come to the Family Justice Center (FJC) to receive emotional, financial, and legal help, as they take steps towards a safe and stable future. The event will benefit core funding for these services offered by the FJC.

Sponsors for the event included: Phillips 66, Lowenstein Sandler, Northfield Bank, Elberon Development Company, Resnick Law Firm, BTQ Financial and Alliance Community Healthcare.

ABOUT THE UNION COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER: The Union County Family Justice Center is a joint collaborative between Union County, the Union County Prosecutor’s Office, and the YWCA Union County. Each year, hundreds of victims of domestic violence come to the FJC to receive help as they take steps towards a safe and stable future.

ABOUT YWCA UNION COUNTY: YWCA of Union County is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. Its mission is to empower survivors of domestic violence to become safe and free from abuse, and to promote social justice and eliminate violence against women and girls. We accomplish this mission through the provision of comprehensive, client-centered services, and through education, collaboration and advocacy that builds safe, informed and supportive communities. Its programs include a 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline (908-355-HELP), Community Support Services, Family Justice Center, Residential Programs, PALS (Peace: A Learned Solution), and Community & Professional Education. For more information, please visit www.ywcaunioncounty.org or call (908) 355-1995.

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Units	Size	1 TOWN	3 TOWNS	6 TOWNS	9 TOWNS	12 TOWNS	15 TOWNS	18 TOWNS	21 TOWNS	24 TOWNS
1 Unit (Business card)	3.25" x 2"	\$60	\$150	\$250	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550	\$600
2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900	\$1000
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
2-PAGE SPREAD	21" x 14"	\$700								
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FRONT PAGE BANNER	8.25" x 2"	\$320								
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CRANFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY ADULT EVENTS

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

Puzzle Swap

Saturday, May 4, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Join us for an all-ages Puzzle Swap. Stop by the Community Center to swap out puzzles from your collection for new ones. Children's puzzles are welcome, too. If you love puzzles, don't forget to visit our Library's continuous community puzzle on the 2nd floor.

Literary Cafe

Saturday, May 11, at 10:15 a.m.
 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 nonfiction, 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 in person or online.

International Film

Monday, May 13, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
 International films are back! Join us for an International film screening. The same film will be shown at 2pm and 7pm. Please contact the library for the film title.

Adults Create

Tuesday, May 14, at 7 p.m.
 Join us the 2nd Tuesday of every month for crafts. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. Space is limited; please visit our website or contact the library to register.

Trivia Night

Wednesday, May 15, at 7 p.m.
 Join us for another fun evening of trivia! This free event is hosted by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. Join us in the Community Room on the first floor of the Community Center. Feel free to bring your own snacks and (non-alcoholic) drinks. Prizes awarded to the winning team. Please visit our website or contact the library to register.

Theater Project

Saturday, May 18, at 2 p.m.
 The Friends of the Cranford Public Library invite everyone to attend a live theatrical performance -back in person. New Jersey's own Theater Project will present a reading of an original short play. The reading will be followed by a question and answer session with the audience, director, playwright and cast. Funds benefiting the Theater Project have been provided by the Union County LAP Grant and the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. No registration needed.

Elaine & The Cimarron Sky Band

Tuesday, May 21, at 7 p.m.
 Singer/Guitarist/Keyboardist Elaine Orzechowski is a veteran of the Jersey Shore music scene, having been a part of numerous bands/trios/duos and even a stint as a party DJ over the years. Performing in several country rock/southern rock bands she developed a love for harmony-driven country-tinged music. With her band, The Cimarron Sky Band, the same classic country/country rock songs are taken to the next level with full instrumentation and up to four-part harmony – with a heavy touch of bluegrass added to the mix! Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.

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