

CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ

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OAS STUDENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN DAY OF SERVICE

Submitted by Christina Miskewitz

Eighth Grade students from Orange Avenue School dedicated a day in May to give back to local charities. Stations were set up throughout the school where students rotated to make sandwiches for the homeless, and shelter bags for transitional housing facilities, birthday bags filled with everything to make a birthday cake, they made cards for veterans and collected diapers and wipes for mothers in need.

In all, the day of service was able to assemble 400 shelter bags for Jersey Cares; make 500 sandwiches for St. Joseph Social Service Center in Elizabeth; 200 birthday bags with cake supplies, birthday cards and gift cards for Cranford Family Care and Jersey Cares; 35 boxes of diapers and wipes to Jewish Family Service; and 185 cards for Hugs for Soldiers.

OAS is thankful to the donations from Cranford families of almost \$4,000, OAS PTA and the 8th Grade Committee, and for the deli meats donated by Lenny & Johns.

“Service is a value OAS wants to instill in the student body and the day was a great collaboration between parents, faculty, and 8th graders. It was uplifting for everyone to see the great impact everyone made as a community,” said Christina Bentrewicz, member of the OAS 8th Grade Committee and Day of Service.

During the day of service, students also learned how they can volunteer for local charities on their own time.

This is the third year OAS has supported local charities with a day of service. “Students made a difference in so many lives today,” said Robin Yablonski, member of the OAS 8th Grade Committee and Day of Service. “Our goal is to help meet the needs of people in New Jersey and also educate our students on how to volunteer in our community and beyond.”

Jersey Cares brings accessibility to volunteering. Students can create an account on their website and find a place nearby



to volunteer the next day. Jersey Cares website is jerseycares.org. Students can also volunteer in the Food Pantry at Cranford Family Care on Myrtle Street. Volunteering opportunities at St. Joseph’s include pantry bag assembly on the second Saturday and third Monday and Tuesday of each month; assist with food distribution Monday through Saturday from 8:45 a.m. to noon and Monday through Friday from 1 to 4 p.m.; join with volunteers in the daily Bread Sandwich Program, and the Soup Kitchen held each Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; as well as special holiday projects (Easter basket assembly, school backpack supplies, etc.), and sorting donations of food and / or clothing.

Within a 10 mile radius of Cranford there are 20 homeless shelters, and one in 10 New Jersey families experienced food insecurities in 2023. “Our eighth graders showed such great teamwork today making sandwiches, birthday bags and shelter bags. They left their in-service day with a groundwork to continue to make a positive change through volunteerism,” said Keren Segal, member of the Eighth Grade Committee and Day of Service.



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CLAY COURT DEDICATION

Township of Cranford

The Cranford Clay Tennis Courts have been a mainstay for more than 100 years, but almost disappeared in the 1990's until Mary Goodfellow

and the Hogan Family stepped up. The Association dedicated two courts to honor these individuals who remain dedicated to preserving this recreational amenity.



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A RECORD \$50,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Cranford Jaycees

The Cranford Jaycees are proud to announce they have awarded a record total of \$50,000 in scholarships to 27 students of the Class of 2024.

These Cranford students have served our community and demonstrated strong leadership and character qualities in addition to their academic accomplishments:

Isabelle Cleaveland, Nora Cumiskey, Owen Cumiskey, Owen Gibling, Jack Goodwin, Lily Goodwin, Rebecca Handsman, Daniel Kennedy, Alexandria Kruk, Julia Lucas, Angela Marino, Miles Murphy, Lindsey Mychalzcuk, Abigail Nam, Ethan Orr, Olivia Padovano, Kianna Riera, Leah Rogers, Samatha Schiffel, Drew Shusterman, Olivia Stoplielo, Evan Surmay, and Ryan Turnamian

In addition, the Jaycees announced four winners of their Trade Scholarship program.

This program launched in 2022 with support from Danny Ghanime, owner of Cranford's Brighton Air Corp.

THIS YEAR'S WINNERS ARE:

Destiny Curtis, who is already attending Union County Vocational Technical School (UCVTS) studying Cosmetology

Ava Lanier, who will be attending the Aveda Arts and Science Institute to study Cosmetology

Julia Lee, who will be attending UCVTS to study Cosmetology

Howard Mann, who will also be attending UCVTS to study in their Electrical Program.

The Cranford Jaycees congratulate the Class of 2024 and thank the community for supporting their events like the Firecracker Four Miler and Fun Run, which has allowed the organization to greatly expand their scholarship program.



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(above) The Cranford Jaycees awarded a record total of \$50,000 in scholarships to 27 students of the Class of 2024.

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DONNA HERRAN INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

National Junior College Athletic Association

Longtime UCNJ Coach Donna Herran of Cranford, was named an inaugural inductee into the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region XIX Hall of Fame. Herran became assistant coach of the women's basketball team in 1975 and went on to serve as head coach from 1980 through 1999.

Coach Herran accomplished much during her time at UCNJ. Under her leadership, the team accrued 537 wins and had five National Tournament appearances. During her first season, the team won the first UCNJ Garden State Athletic Conference, Region XIX Conference Championships, and a bid for the 1976 National Tournament held in Kansas. On six occasions, she was named the NJCAA Region XIX Coach of the Year. In honor of Herran's many contributions to the Region, NJCAA Region XIX presents a deserving coach each year with the "Donna Herran Coach of the

Year Award."

In 1996 and 1997, she was named both the NJCAA National District Coach of the Year and received the Converse Coach of the Year award. Herran was inducted into UCNJ's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2001 and received the New Jersey National Girls and Women in Sports Award. During her tenure UCNJ was consistently ranked in Defense on a National level. UCNJ had numerous All-Americans, All-Region XIX and All Garden State players honored. Kathy Penczak, All-America from Roselle, NJ went on to play for the St. Louis Streak Womens Professional Basketball League and T.C Flynn. Morris, All America also from Roselle, NJ was selected to try for for the 1980 Olympic Team. Nancy Foster of Union, NJ was chosen as WBCA Kodak All-America 1st Team. Their numbers #10 and #44 are retired. Defense was the Lady Owls trademark and they were consistently in the national polls for defensive average. A majority

of the Lady Owls either graduated from UCNJ or transferred to a Senior College or University to finish their education. Herran also served WBCA Women's Basketball Kodak All America Committee and Coach of the Year National Committees. She credits her success to Fred Perry, former Athletic Director and Coach. Herran is a graduate of UCNJ and Caldwell University.

"I am honored to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Coach Herran on this well-deserved recognition. She has been a dedicated member of the College community for many years, from coaching to her current membership on the College's Board of Governors. Her dedication to the College and presence in the UCNJ community is admirable. This recognition is a testament to her contributions both on and off the basketball court, and we are proud to celebrate this achievement," stated UCNJ Board of Trustee's Chair Victor M. Richel.



(above) Longtime UCNJ Women's Basketball Coach Donna Herran was Inducted into National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region XIX Hall of Fame.

Courtesy photo

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WINNER, WINNER CATFISH DINNER

RJ Miskewitz, age 11, won the Cranford Jaycees Father's Day Fishing Derby with a 21.5-inch catfish. He took first place in his age group, and first place overall.



RJ Miskewitz, age 11, wins with a 21.5-inch catfish. He takes the whole thing at the Cranford Jaycees Father's day Fishing Derby! First place in age group and first place overall! Thanks Jaycees and Cougar Headquarters for the gift cards. Love the trophies this year.

GUY BORGES DRIVE DEDICATION

Township of Cranford

Commissioners Kathleen Miller Prunty, Paul A. Gallo and Gina Black joined the Borges family, Karen Borges, daughters Linsey Dowling and Aimee Avedissian, to honor the late Guy

Borges on May 16, 2024 at Orange Avenue Pool where Mr. Borges dedicated over 30 years of service. The Township unveiled a new Orange Avenue pool sign and named the roadway to the pool entrance in his name—Guy Borges Drive.



Courtesy photo



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HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S SCHOLARSHIP

Each June, during the last days of the school year, the Cranford Historical Society takes part in the highly anticipated Cranford High School Senior Awards night. An impressive number of scholarships are awarded to students based on academic achievement, community service and a variety of other criteria. Scholarships are awarded by community organizations as well as individuals who remember their loved ones with memorial scholarships. The Cranford Historical Society searches for a student who has displayed high academic achievement in history and also has plans of continuing their college studies in that subject.

Shane Hamlin achieved near perfect grades in AP history and plans on attending the State University of New York at Binghamton, majoring in history. In addition to the monetary scholarship, Shane also received the Cranford volumes from the Images of America Series, from Arcadia Publishing, as well as the Cranford 86 Tribute Book which is published each year on Memorial Day by the Cranford 86 project, a division of Cranford Historical Society. For more information visit Cranford86.org and Cranfordhistoricalsociety.org.

CRANFORD RELAY FOR LIFE 2024 RAISES OVER \$85,000 FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Township of Cranford

We thank all who participated in the Cranford Relay for Life held in June. Cranford raised over \$85,000 to help raise awareness of cancer and support the American Cancer Society research. Over 36 teams and 220 participants came out to the event.

Cranford's Relay for Life annual event gives us a unique opportunity to gather as a community and make clear that no one faces cancer alone, recognizing those who have lost their courageous battle with cancer, cancer survivors, and caregivers.



Courtesy photo

(above) The Township of Cranford proclaimed May 17, 2024, as Relay for Life Day in a ceremony during the Township Committee official meeting held on May 21.



(above) Cranford High School senior Shane Hamlin accepts the Cranford Historical Scholarship award package from historical society board member, Don Sweeney, founder of the Cranford 86 project.

Courtesy photo

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TUNNEL TO TOWERS NEVER FORGET MOBILE EXHIBIT VISITS OAS

The Orange Avenue School PTA welcomed the newly reworked Tunnel to Towers 9/11 Institute 'TM9/11 Never Forget Mobile Exhibit' at Orange Avenue School on May 29th. The public was invited to an opening ceremony in the school's front parking lot. An estimated one hundred people were in attendance including the Cranford Police and Fire Departments, Union County Police and Fire Pipes and Drums, scout troops, school staff, students, and other community members.

OAS middle school students visited the exhibit during the school day on May 30th.

The visit is largely the result of the tremendous interest put forth by the 8th grade class, many of whom participated in an essay contest sponsored by The Tunnel to Towers Foundation 9/11 InstituteTM and The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education. Each participant wrote an essay about the positive actions that our country and communities experienced following the attacks.

Essay themes included patriotism, unity, heroism and sacrifice. They also included a look at the improved safety standards and communication protocols that came as a result as well as a renewed call to service of community and country. Students were pleased to take on this educational challenge as the contest allowed for them to explore the attacks from a unique educational perspective. They discussed the attacks with family and friends who had lived through that time period and could offer their personal experiences. In some cases, they were surprised to find out that so much good had followed something so devastating.

The essay contest was brought to the attention

of the school by Caren Villarreal, an OAS parent and PTA member whose father, FDNY Assistant Chief Gerard A. Barbara co-led the rescue effort of Tower 2 on that day and ultimately sacrificed his life. She joins Tunnel to Towers in their mission to educate future generations about both the horrific and heroic acts experienced on 9/11 and believes that in order to truly "Never Forget" we must continue to educate. Chief Barbara's grandchildren, Thomas and Elena Villarreal attend OAS and are proud to carry on his legacy. The family joins the other members of the Cranford community who lost loved ones on that day in remembering them with honor and

ongoing appreciation for their sacrifices. They also appreciate the partnership and support of the Cranford community first responders in helping to organize this event and bring it to life.

ABOUT THE TUNNEL TO TOWERS FOUNDATION

Since 9/11, we have been helping America's heroes by providing mortgage-free homes to Gold Star and fallen first responder families with young children and by building specially-adapted smart homes for catastrophically injured veterans and first responders. We are also committed to eradicating veteran homelessness and helping America to Never Forget September 11, 2001. Visit: t2t.org



Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Cranford Monthly page on facebook.com. Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DONATES NEW LADDER TRUCK FLAG TO CFD

Township of Cranford

A new ladder truck flag was recently donated by the Cranford Knights of Columbus (KofC) to the Cranford Fire Department. Call Department Lt. Ron Marotta was named Firefighter of the Year by the Cranford KofC last year. As part of this recognition, the Cranford KofC donates to the charity of choice for the recipient. Lt. Marotta graciously chose to give back to his fire department in choosing to have a new ladder truck flag.

In a flag raising ceremony May 21, Cranford Fire Department Chief Dan Czeh said, "Flying a flag from a fire apparatus is a visual display of pride and honor for our department, the community and for the country. This flag will be raised for celebrations and unfortunately, for somber occasions. Every time it is raised though, we will be full of pride and honor as we salute the colors."

"Thank you to Call Lt. Ron Marotta and to the Cranford Knights of Columbus for making this generous and patriotic donation. This flag will be proudly used as our display for years to come.

Lt. Marotta has served the Cranford Fire

Department for 46 years. His dedication to the department and his community is evident in all he does in service and in this patriotic donation to the Fire Department. "I am happy to have been able to contribute to our Fire Department and our community with the support of the Knights of Columbus with this American Flag donation today."

"I am incredibly proud to serve our Fire Department for such a long tenure, and Chief Czeh is absolutely one of the finest Chief's that I have served under as he recognizes the service of our members, and he works hard to strengthen

our Fire Department. He encourages each of us to be the best that we can be for our community and Department," Lt. Marotta said.

Administrator Lavona Patterson and Public Safety Commissioner Paul A. Gallo attended the ceremony with members of the Cranford Fire Department and The KofC. "Thank to the Knights of Columbus for this beautiful flag," Commissioner Gallo said. Jerry Conheeny of the Knights of Columbus, said, the KofC has a mission of charity, "If the fire department and the police department come to us, we try and do as much as we can to raise money."



(above) Flag raising ceremony May 21, 2024

Courtesy photo

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MILITARY FAMILIES SACRIFICE TOO

Michael D Boll, NJVN President

For the last few years, the New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) has been helping veterans with resources and assistance with their mental health conditions. Over time we came to realize that the veteran's family was being affected by their struggles as well. Our team had to learn how to include their family members in our outreach efforts. We lose 22 veterans each day to suicide, and they leave behind grieving families. Recently, we decided to make sure all veteran family members can use the same resources that our team has available for veterans. Sometimes we forget about the sacrifices our veteran families have to make and this country should appreciate them for this.

One thing our team decided to do was to have Gold Star families meet disabled veterans at our events, so they can work together and form a bond. This effort was extremely affective and immediately brought joy to both the Gold Star families and to the disabled veterans. By adding veteran family members to the team, it allows us to work together on our peer support and recreational therapy programs. We are honored to have veteran family members to work alongside us and know they are just as committed with helping our veterans live a better way of life.

If you need assistance, or would like to join the team as a volunteer, please send us your name, email, and phone number to NJVN1775@gmail.com.

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 is 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 NJVN1775@gmail.com. To learn more visit njvn.org.



(above) Michael D Boll, NJVN President, with Dina and Tom Duffy who lost their son Tom Duffy, a Marine Corporal and Afghanistan War veteran. Courtesy photos



(above) NJVN team members participated in a 22-hour ruck march in Wildwood, NJ in remembrance of Tom Duffy, a Marine Corporal and Afghanistan War veteran.

Food Vendors & Inflatables
5:00 pm

Fireworks
9:15 pm

U.S.A. INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Nomahegan Park
Tuesday, July 2nd
Rain Date: Sunday, July 7th

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD

FOR THE LATEST TOWNSHIP INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT WWW.CRANFORDNJ.ORG. FOLLOW THE TOWNSHIP'S FACEBOOK

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TV 35 HONORED WITH THREE JAG AWARDS

Township of Cranford

On May 16, 2024, at the annual JAG Conference and Awards Dinner, Cranford TV 35 was honored with three awards:

First Place: "Home For The Holidays House Tour" video. Camera work and editing by TV 35 Producer Christine Hoffman.

First Place: Ribbon Cutting for the opening of Toast. Camera work and editing by Mike Vastano.

Award of Recognition: Sandcastle video interview by TV 35 Director Don Smith, filmed October 2023. Mike Vastano filmed and edited the video.

We thank Christine Hoffman for submitting all our entries!

Cranford TV 35 is part of a state-wide organization called the Jersey Access Group (JAG), an organization that is for the interests of Local Access TV in New Jersey.

DR. DEBORAH CANNON PARTRIDGE WOLFE HONORED

Township of Cranford

The Dr. Deborah Cannon Partridge Wolfe Reading Garden in Lincoln Park was dedicated to honor the late Cranford native whose work in education and civil rights impacted lives of so many in this country. On May 13, 2024, friends, family, her sorority sisters, and community members gathered during the dedication ceremony. Rev. Alfred Brown of the First Baptist Church of Cranford gave the invocation.

WHO WAS DR. WOLFE?

Cranford's notable resident Dr. Wolfe was a trailblazer and a woman of firsts. She was the first African American to be named in the National Honor Society at Cranford High School, the first female to be ordained as a Baptist minister; the first African American faculty member at Queens College.

Leading the way in a number of notable civil rights and education initiatives, Dr. Wolfe is a woman the Township is proud to call one of Cranford's most treasured citizens.

Visit the Cranford Historical Society website, cranfordhistoricalsociety.org, to learn more about Dr. Wolfe and her outstanding achievements—and see a photo of her on the grandstand with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during his "I Have a Dream" speech.



(above) Dr. Deborah Cannon Partridge Wolfe

Courtesy photos



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(above) The Dr. Deborah Cannon Partridge Wolfe Reading Garden in Lincoln Park was dedicated On May 13, 2024.

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GRAND MARSHAL'S REMARKS HIGHLIGHT MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Submitted by Cranford 86 Committee

For the third time in the last 10 years, the threat of dangerous weather loomed on Memorial Day morning, cancelling Cranford's parade and moving its iconic Memorial Day Ceremony indoors, to the Community Center. In a gymnasium filled with people, it was standing room only as the Memorial Day Committee, Cranford VFW Post 335 and the Cranford 86 project presented a ceremony full of tributes and emotion.

Many people look forward to the remarks from the Grand Marshal who is selected each year by the VFW. This year that selection did not disappoint. Vietnam War veteran, Jay Flanagan,

chose to speak not of himself, but of three comrades who paid the ultimate price for freedom.

Lieutenant Colonel William Stinson was Jay Flanagan's commanding officer. Alpha Company, under heavy fire from attacking North Vietnamese forces, had run out of food and ammunition. The fighting was so extreme, that it was determined to be too risky to send supplies into the embattled landing zone. Lt. Col. Stinson filled a helicopter with ammo and rations and delivered the payload himself. For the return trip, the chopper was loaded with dead and wounded comrades. During takeoff, William Stinson reached out to secure one of the

men, and was shot and killed. Jay Flanagan, after an emotional pause, said "He was a hell of a leader".

Army Medic Danny O'Shea was from Jay Flanagan's Americal Division. Jay explained that Danny O'Shea's unit was under heavy fire while crossing rice paddies, and five men lay wounded under the continuing crossfire. Medic O'Shea made four trips into dangerous territory and carried his wounded comrades on his shoulders to safety, where he was able to provide them with medical attention. On the way to aid the fifth wounded soldier, Danny O'Shea was shot and killed. For his bravery under fire, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Army Nurse Sharon Lane was the only woman killed by enemy fire in Vietnam. While serving in a field hospital located near Jay Flanagan's headquarters, Sharon tended to sick and wounded soldiers and Vietnamese orphans. She died when the hospital was struck by rocket fire.

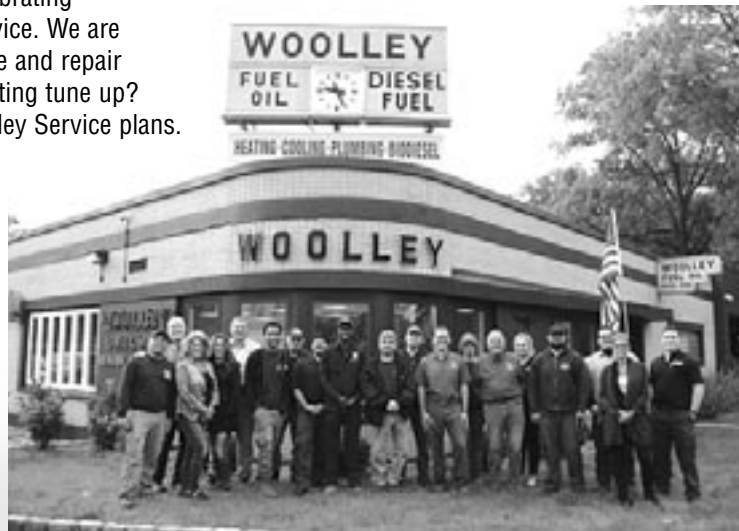
This steadfast gathering, held every year in our town, is always a beautiful, but bittersweet experience. All of those who join together, on this special morning in May, recognize that their freedoms are the result of the blood, sweat and sacrifice of those who have gone before them. Everyone involved in the preparation of Cranford's Memorial Day Ceremony does their best to ensure that your attendance at this time-honored Cranford tradition, will be time well spent.



(above, left) Private First Class Daniel John Shea. Army Medic - Medal of Honor KIA May 5, 1969, (above, center) Lieutenant Colonel William Stinson, (above, right) Lieutenant Sharon Ann Lane - Army Nurse The only woman killed by enemy action in the entire Vietnam War. KIA July 8, 1969

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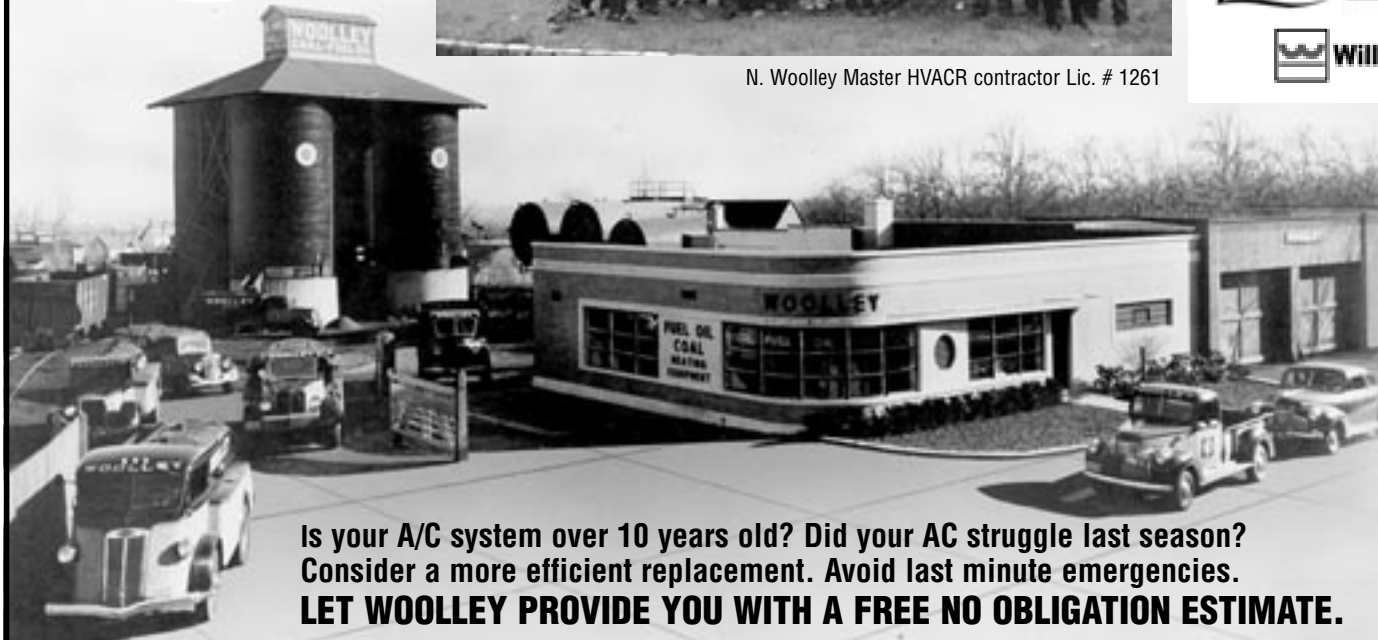
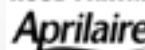
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9.5 THE MICHAEL CRAIG BAND

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URGENT NEED FOR ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH

Child Focus

The latest class of CASA volunteers were sworn in to advocate for youth in foster care on June 11, 2024.

Union County Superior Court Judge Rosalba Comas presided over the swearing-in of the newly trained volunteers, and each can now be assigned to work with children living in foster care through no fault of their own, advocating for their best interests and ensuring their needs are met while in the child welfare system.

The nonprofit organization Child Focus operates CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, and its goal is to provide a CASA volunteer for each of the more than 250 child-victims in Union County foster care. Currently, just 30 percent of these vulnerable infants, children, and teens have the continuity and support of a CASA volunteer serving as extra eyes and ears for judges hearing their cases. The need is critical for additional volunteers to step up and serve waiting children.

“We are proud to welcome this new group of volunteers to the CASA family,” said Erica Fischer-Kaslander, Executive Director of Child Focus. “These individuals have taken concrete action to make a difference in the lives of children who have experienced immense trauma, having been removed from home through no fault of their own, often due to abuse or neglect. We look forward to working with our new advocates as they serve these vulnerable youth and urge more community members to follow their example by volunteering to support children in need.”

Judge Comas expressed her gratitude for the CASA program and the volunteers’ commitment to the children they serve. “If I really want to know what’s happening with a child I listen to the CASA worker, because they are 100% in tune with everything that the child needs, and everything that’s happening in the child’s life,” she shared. “Their job is to look out for the kids,

represent the children’s interest, and make sure that all of their needs are being addressed. It’s not just whether they need clothes or whether they need toys, it’s the bond. It’s what they need emotionally, it’s someone they can count on.”

Since caseworkers, attorneys, and foster homes are ever-changing, the CASA volunteer – or advocate – is a much-needed constant in a child’s life, committing to work with the child until they reach permanency in a stable home and the case closes. Children assigned a CASA volunteer are more likely to receive services, spend less time in the foster system, and experience significantly better outcomes than those without an advocate.

BECOMING A CASA - TRAINING SCHEDULED IN JULY

Becoming a CASA requires no special skills or background in child welfare. Child Focus provides thorough training on the ins and outs of advocating for abused and neglected children, and volunteers are fully supported by CASA program staff. Volunteers visit the children at least monthly and get to know the people in the child’s life, such as foster parents, biological parents, teachers, therapists, and attorneys in order to make unbiased recommendations to the family court judge that support the child’s best interests.

The first step to becoming an advocate is to attend an information session. Upcoming sessions will be held Monday, July 8 at 5:30 p.m. at the Elizabeth Public Library (Elmora Branch), 740 W Grand St, Elizabeth, NJ 07202; Thursday, July 11 at 5:30 p.m. at the Rahway Public Library, 2 City Hall Plaza in Rahway; Thursday July 25 at 5:30 p.m. at the Union County Colleen Fraser Building, 300 North Avenue E. in Westfield; or Monday July 1 at 10 a.m., Monday July 15 at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday July 24 at 12 p.m., and Wednesday July 31 at 5:30 p.m. at the Wayne Child Focus office, 415 Hamburg Turnpike, Suite D2. Register: casapassaicunion.org/info-session.



(above) The latest class of CASA volunteers were sworn in to advocate for youth in foster care on June 11, 2024. To learn more about becoming an advocate, info sessions are scheduled for July.

For more information visit: casapassaicunion.org/info-session

Courtesy photo

FIRECRACKER RACE RETURNS FOR ITS 45TH YEAR WITH A NEW COURSE

The Cranford Jaycees' annual Firecracker Four-Miler and Fun Run returns July 4th for its 45th year. The race will have a new course this year, heading the opposite direction down Springfield Avenue and turning left on Orange Avenue. Registration is available until 8:00 am on the 4th online at raceforum.com/fire-4. The

Fun Run begins at 8:00 a.m., followed by the Four-Miler at 8:30 a.m.

The race is a fundraiser for the Jaycees' general fund, which gave out \$50,000 in scholarships in June to graduating Cranford seniors.

Also, here's a photo that could be used of the logo designer from CHS.



(above, l-r) Dave Farrell, race organizer; Daniel Ghanime, owner of race title sponsor Brighton Air Corp.; CHS senior Shane Costello who designed this year's Firecracker logo; and Cranford High School art teacher Pat Gorman.

Courtesy photo

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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
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Paws for Reading

Tuesday, July 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Young readers are invited to hone their skills by reading to certified therapy dogs at our monthly "Paws for Reading" program. No registration is required, but space is limited.

"Ms. Erin's Magic of Make-Believe: Summer in our Town"

Friday, July 12 at 9:30 a.m.

This class, for children ages 3-6, fosters teamwork, connection, active listening, and emotional intelligence. No registration is required. The rain date Friday, July 19.

Basics of Karate

Monday, July 22 at 2:00 p.m.

Children ages 3+ are invited to learn the basics of karate with Master C of USA Karate and Fitness! No registration is required, just drop in.

Early Literacy Sounds in Motion

Thursday evenings from 5:00-6:00 p.m.

July 18 through August 29

Children ages 3-5 are invited. The goal of this course is to acquire pre-literacy skills.

Registration is required.

Book Club

Children ages 9+ are invited to a book club!

We'll be discussing the book *The Last Mapmaker*. Participants are expected to read the book before we meet.

The library is hosting a series of Wednesday night programs in July. These family friendly events are best suited to elementary-aged children. All programs are free thanks to the support of the Friends of the Library:

Magic Adventure Show

Wednesday, July 3 at 7:00 p.m.

This fun-filled program will get children and families excited about reading and visiting the library through magic, comedy, and tons of audience participation.

StoryFaces — Adventure Tales!

Become Your Own Hero

Wednesday, July 10 at 7:00 p.m.

StoryFaces is an exciting storytelling show in which volunteers are brought on stage and face painted to illustrate stories.

Planetarium Experience

Wednesday, July 17 at 7:00 and 8:00 p.m.

Participants will observe the stars, planets, the moon and other celestial objects as they appear in the evening sky. Tickets will be given out at the Children's Desk beginning at 6:30 on the day of the performance.

Zoophoria

Wednesday, July 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Learn all about, and get hands-on, with real animals! We'll be joined by 6-8 animals as well as Tripod the Sulcata Tortoise!

Science Heroes:

Adventure of the Lost Treasure

Wednesday, July 31 at 7:00 p.m.

Join us on a treasure-hunting adventure deep within the jungle! The audience helps the performer act out the tale, as we use the events in the story to explore several exciting

USED BOOK SALE JULY 11-13

Looking for some good reading at bargain prices? The Friends of the Cranford Public Library invite you to visit their Used Book Sale in the Cranford Public Library's Friendly Book Cellar from Thursday, July 11, through Saturday, July 13, 2024. Saturday is bag day. We provide the bags. Browse through thousands of books at low prices. This sale is open to all, and registration is required. Attendees are invited to sign up for a one-hour session, starting on the hour. Please sign up for one session only; reservations for multiple sessions on one day will be canceled except for the first session booked. Only cash and checks are accepted; no credit or debit cards. To register visit: eventbrite.com/e/used-book-sale-tickets-890312186717?aff=oddtcreator

CRANFORD LIBRARY ADULT JULY PROGRAMS

Poetry in Motion Book Club

Wednesday, July 17, at 7pm

If you're interested in poetry of any kind and from any era, this is the club for you! Visit our website or contact the library to register.

Tosho-con

Saturday, July 20, from 10am-4pm

2nd annual, all-ages, free anime, comic and pop culture convention! Join us for a day of panels with industry professionals, crafts, dance parties, artists and more!

Rhonda Denet and the Silver Fox Trio:

Sounds of Summer Concert

Tuesday, July 23, at 7pm

Experience the music that evokes all the feelings the summer season brings like longer

days and warmer nights, relaxing in the sun with tropical beverages at your side, and time off with loved ones. No registration needed

Trivia Night

Wednesday, July 24, at 7pm

Join us for another fun evening of trivia! This free event is hosted by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library! 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.

Darkroom Drop-in

Wednesdays from 5:30pm-8:30pm

Photographers of all levels are invited to connect, share their work, talk shop, and work in the darkroom.

CHESS IN MILLBURN

- In-person and Online Chess Lessons
- Rated Chess Tournaments
- Search us on YouTube: Chess Party
- Summer Camp and Classes Registrations Open!
- Visit our website for details and placement test!

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