

CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ

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ISABELLA REIBARKH'S SILVER AWARD PROJECT

Isabella Reibarkh's Silver Award Project has been submitted for approval to the Girl Scout Heart of NJ council, which is the governing body of Girl Scouts of Cranford. A Girl Scout Silver Award is what cadettes (grades 6-8) work towards.

Isabella's Silver Award Project was created over the span of a year and a half to bring awareness to TOPSoccer which is a recreational sports program for children and adults with intellectual, emotional, or physical disabilities offered only through local US Youth Soccer-affiliated soccer clubs. TOPSoccer provides people with diverse abilities an opportunity to play soccer in a structured environment that is safe, fun, supportive, and inclusive.

Isabella, an eighth grader, coordinated a town-wide soccer clinic in June, 2024, at a local park to teach Cranford girls about TOPSoccer. At the clinic, about twenty girls participated in soccer drills, shared snacks, did arts and crafts, and learned about the program. She also set up a donation station to collect gently used soccer gear for the Boys and Girls Club of Newark.

Isabella hopes to inspire other Girl Scouts to participate in TOPSoccer and donate much needed soccer gear to those in need!



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(above) Isabella's soccer clinic participants.

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23RD ANNUAL DRIVE FOR AUTISM GOLF EVENT

Drive for Autism Foundation

The Drive for Autism Foundation is pleased to announce that its annual golf event, Drive for Autism XXIII will be held at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, NJ on Monday September 16, 2024.

The Drive for Autism Golf Outing, which has been held since 2002 has raised and distributed over \$855,000 to local school programs. Previous beneficiaries of grants were Morris Union Jointure Commission (New Providence, NJ), Salt Brook School (New Providence, NJ), AW Roberts School (New Providence, NJ), Union County Educational Services Foundation/Crossroads School (Westfield, NJ), Educational Partnership for Instructing Children (Paramus, NJ), Young Life (greater Summit area), Eden II/Genesis Programs (Staten Island, NY), Spectrum360 - formally The Children's Institute (Verona, NJ), and Seton Foundation/Mother Francheska Elementary School (Staten Island, NY).

Grant recipients use money to fund Health and Fitness Programs, Social Skills Programs, educational curriculum and teacher training, a van for community trips and transportation to job training centers, laptop computers, computer touch screens, iPads, video projectors and educational toys and games

The golf event is the main fundraising function for the foundation. Single golfers and foursomes

are welcome as well as, product donations and corporate sponsorships. To register online please go to: birdease.com/DriveforAutismXXIII

ABOUT DRIVE FOR AUTISM FOUNDATION:

Based in New Providence, New Jersey, The Drive for Autism Foundation (EIN#20-1760417), is a 501(3)(c) tax exempt public charity that was created in the Spring of 2002 for the sole purpose of raising and distributing funds for educational facilities specializing in students with autism.

DRIVE FOR AUTISM GOLF OUTING 2024

The Drive for Autism XXIII is scheduled for Monday Sept 16, 2024, at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, NJ. The event consists of a morning round of golf followed by a barbeque. Special events include golf contests, raffles and a silent auction of sports memorabilia, game tickets and golf trips.

To register or for additional information please visit birdease.com/DriveForAutismXXIII, call 908-451-8033

or email driveforautism@comcast.net.



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CRANFORD NIGHT OUT AUGUST 6TH

Cranford Police Department

This summer on August 6th, 2024, Cranford Night Out will occur in Municipal Lot # 1 from 6 – 9 p.m.

Cranford Night Out is an evening of family-friendly community-building between the Cranford Police Department and the residents of Cranford. Residents are invited to Municipal Lot # 1 where the Cranford Police Department has booked a DJ, Face Painters, a Static Display of Emergency Vehicles, Italian Ices, Cotton Candy, Dragon Popcorn, and Games all free of charge to participants. Additionally, members of Cranford PBA will partner with Project Home for a “dunk a cop” fundraiser to help Cranford families in their time of need.

Questions about this event may be directed to the Police Juvenile Bureau, Detective Ali Muhammad, at a-muhammad@cranfordnj.org or 908-272-8989.

FIRECRACKER SHINES BRIGHT

Cranford Jaycees

Thousands gathered on the Fourth of July for the 45th annual Cranford Jaycees Firecracker Road Race and Fun Run. The races had a record 2,058 participants with hundreds more cheering them on under clear skies at Nomahegan Park.

Many runners wore red, white, and blue gear as they paced through this year’s new racecourse, necessitated by the construction of the Riverside

Drive footbridge.

The top male finisher in the four-miler was Rodolfo Sanchez of Bergenfield in a time of 19:40, while the top female finisher in the four-miler was Alexandra Niles of Montclair with a time of 23:50. Liam Concannon was the top Cranford finisher, placing 7th overall with a time of 21:01.

The top male and female one mile fun run finishers were Finlay Hamilton, age 12, of Westfield, with a time of 5:54 and Nina Hendrickson, age 15 of Wheaton, with a time of 6:40. Full results are available online at my.raceresult.com/293995/results.

Brighton Air Corp was the title sponsor for the sixth year in a row.

Proceeds from the event helped support the Cranford Jaycees scholarship fund and community efforts. In June, the Jaycees awarded \$50,000 in college and trade school scholarships to graduating Cranford students.



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The Cranford Knights of Columbus presented scholarships totaling close to \$19,000 to 17 worthy Cranford high school students on Thursday evening, June 13th at the St. Michael's Church Mary Prayer Garden.

Owen Giblin received the Monsignor Louis Fimiani Memorial Award, Daniel Kennedy received the Christine Bagniewski Memorial Award, and Nora Cumiskey received the Irene Shackell Memorial Award. The other Scholarship winners are Wilkin Bauer, Owen

Cumiskey, Emily Doyle, John Duggan Goodwin, Lily Patricia Goodwin, Joshua Hunsinger, Reagan Leahey, Angela Marino, Alyson Messina, Alex Muller, Olivia Padovano, James Santulli, Evan Surmay, and Aidan Zagarola.

The Council would like to thank the Scholarship Committee chaired by Brother Ed Bagniewski for a job well done as we had many outstanding applicants again this year.

Since our founding in 1970, the Cranford

Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Men's Fraternal Organization dedicated to our four core principles, Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. The Cranford Council supports many worthy charities and civic causes locally, state-wide and nationally and is committed to be a viable part of our community. For information about joining the Cranford Council, please contact our incoming Grand Knight Tom Turner at 908-884-4083 or visit our web site, cranfordknights.org.

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VENDORS SOUGHT FOR FALL FEST – SEPT. 22

The Cranford Historical Society will host a "Fall Festival" on September 22, 2024, from 12 – 4 p.m. at the Crane-Phillips House Museum, 124 N. Union Ave. in Cranford. The event has become a tradition in town and will consist of crafters and vendors selling their merchandise, crafts and activities for children and guided tours of the Museum, inside and out.

The Society is looking for vendors and local individuals or organizations who would like to sell their merchandise and join the Festival that day. Cost is \$20 per spot. BYO table and chairs. If interested in purchasing a spot, please call, 908-276-0082, or email, cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net, with your name, contact information and what type of merchandise is for sale. Once approved, mail a \$20 check to the Cranford Historical Society, 38 Springfield Ave., Cranford, NJ, 07016.



CHS CLASS OF 1974 REUNION WEEKEND PLANNED

Submitted by Bernie Wagenblast

It's been five decades since the CHS Class of 1974 walked the hallways of Cranford High. While much has changed over those 50 years some things remain the same. One such thing is the friendships which were formed. There will be an opportunity to renew those friendships and create new memories during a September weekend filled with reunion activities.

On Friday, September 13th the celebration kicks off with a charity golf outing at the Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth. At 3:30 p.m., classmates will be able to revisit the high school for a tour and a group photo. In the evening there will be a meet 'n greet/bar crawl that starts at the Cranford Hotel at 7 p.m.

On Saturday, September 14th you can join CHS grads from many years at Cranstock in Nomahegan Park, between noon and dusk.

The weekend is capped off with the big event,

on Saturday, September 14th, the reunion at Gran Centurions, 440 Madison Hill Road in Clark. It runs between 7 and 11 p.m.

The reunion includes a buffet dinner, beer and wine, a DJ, a photo booth and a 50th reunion gift. The cost is \$130 per person. Checks can be mailed to CHS74 Reunion, c/o Robert Breslau, 412 Cotton Street, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or made via Venmo (@jane-pearlman). Tickets are limited and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Dress is smart casual.

The reunion committee has also reserved a limited number of rooms at the Holiday Inn, 36 Valley Road in Clark, at a discounted rate. To make a reservation, call 732-574-0100 and use the block code CRH.

For info, contact the 50th Reunion Committee at info@cranfordclassof74.org, or visit the reunion website: cranfordclassof74.org.

CRANFORD WEST

Cranford West, in scenic Hope, New Jersey, still has a few sites available on weekends in August and September. Registration is open to all Cranford residents on Community Pass. Tent sites are \$50 per night, one site per family. Please call 908.709.7283 for more information.



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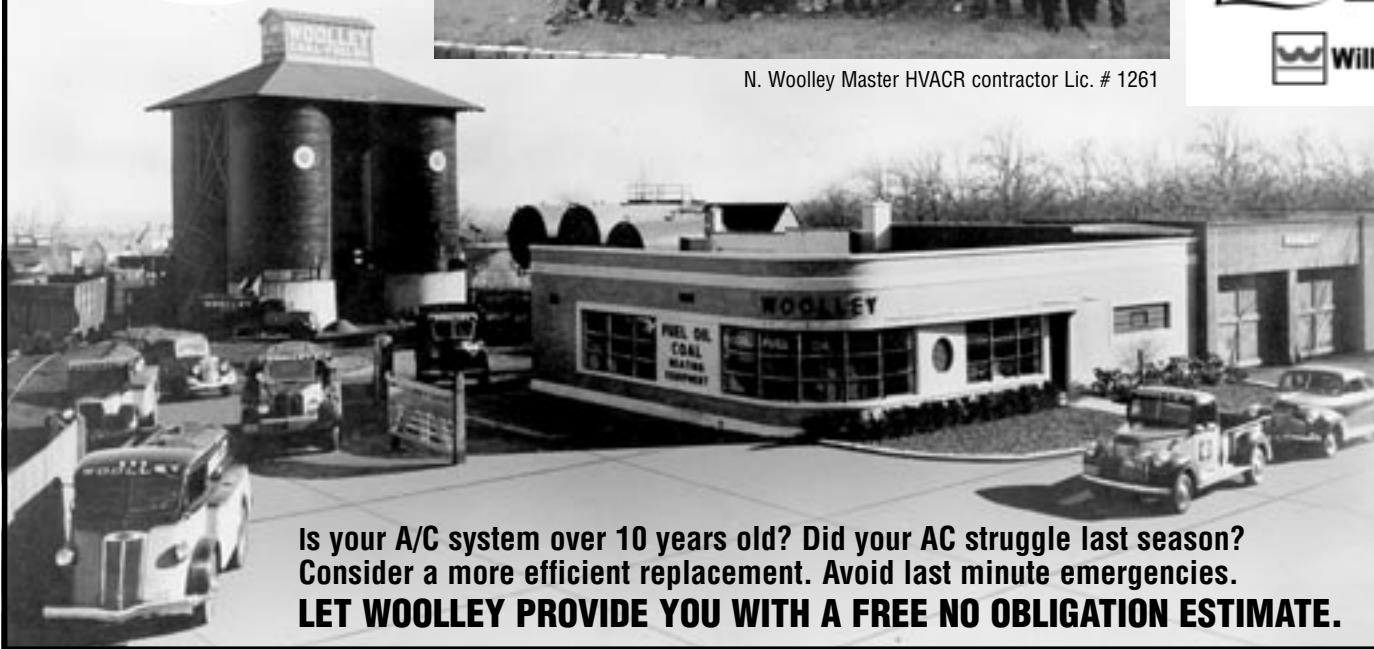
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Township of Cranford

Church Women United of Cranford (CWU) focuses its mission on celebrating unity, diversity and inclusion through community outreach, volunteerism, and collaboration with other local religious organizations. CWU has collaborated on events with the First Baptist Church of Cranford, First Presbyterian of Cranford, Cranford United Methodist Church, St. Michael Church, Calvary Lutheran Church, Trinity Church, Cranford Alliance Church, and St. Mark's A.M.E. Church.

The Cranford Township Committee recently honored CWU with a proclamation recognizing June 1, 2024, as Church Women United Cranford Day in the Township of Cranford and the important work and partnerships the Church Women United Cranford organization has contributed to the Township of Cranford.



(above, r-l) Colleen Williams of CWU accepts a proclamation from Cranford Mayor Brian Andrews

Courtesy photo



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SUMMER 2024 DONATION DAYS

The Jumble Store in Cranford

The Jumble Store, a non-profit thrift store located at 110 Walnut St. in Cranford, operated by the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield (JLEP), is holding donation days this summer on Saturday, August 3rd, and Thursday August 15th, from 10 a.m. – noon. Donations will also be accepted for the Career Closet, a project of the JLEP that provides free career dressing services to women residing in Union County.

No reservation is needed, just bring your donations to the back entrance of the Jumble Store and volunteers will bring them inside and provide a tax receipt. Donation items can include women's, men's, and children's clothing as well as housewares, accessories, and toys. If you cannot make it to one of these days but have items to contribute to the store, please contact Caroline Ellison via email at office@jlepnj.org or by phone at 908-709-1177 to make alternate drop off arrangements. Please do not leave donations without an appointment.

All proceeds from sales at the Jumble Store are used to fund the JLEP's work in the community, including the Career Closet and our college

scholarship program. If you would like to partner with the JLEP or find out more about becoming a volunteer, please email us at information@jlepnj.org.

The Jumble Store is closed for the summer and will reopen on September 4th, 2024, at 11 a.m. The regular hours starting in September are Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Career Closet is open by appointment, please email careercloset@jlepnj.org for more information.

ABOUT THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ELIZABETH PLAINFIELD

The Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield is a chapter of the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. and is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. Learn more at jlepnj.org.

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CFAS CADET COMPETITION SUCCESS

Submitted by AJ Kornberger, VP, Cranford CFAS

Eleven cadets from the Cranford First Aid Squad competed in the New Jersey State Competitions and came home with 2nd and 3rd place in the Advanced Division. This event, held in June, was hosted by the Keyport First Aid Squad. It consisted of many teams from New Jersey, New York, and the Pennsylvania area.

Teams in the Advanced Division consisted of three to four cadets with at least one certified EMT. They were judged on their ability to handle difficult situations and properly treat a patient in three separate scenarios, including a trauma victim, cardiac victim, and motor vehicle collision.

The 2nd place team from Cranford consisted of Nora Cumiskey, Rebecca Handsman, Ava Morrison, and Kristen Ledford. The 3rd place team from Cranford consisted of Drew Shusterman, Micaela Beltran, and Charlie Otten. Also competing was a team consisting of Elijah Castro, Olivia Stopiello, Marcela Godoy-Pleitez,

and Carissa Pecoraro. The advisors were Alicia Flechas, AJ Kornberger, Zach Kornberger, and Maya Tobolewski.

In between competing in scenarios, cadets were able to learn more about different first responder agencies, including the New Jersey EMS Task Force and the Monmouth County Sheriff department. Additionally, they were able to witness the Hackensack Meridian Health medical helicopter land, and then take a tour while learning all about their services from the medical crew.

The Cranford First Aid Squad cadet program consists of high school members aged 16-18 with an interest in the healthcare field or further serving their community. The members respond to medical emergencies on the ambulance and have the ability to obtain an EMT certification. Cranford has one of the largest cadet programs in Union County with over 15 members. For more information visit: cranfordfirstaid.org



(above) Eleven Cranford Aid Squad cadets competed in the New Jersey State Cadet competition at the Bayshore First Aid Squad in June.

Courtesy photo

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TBEMC GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Submitted by Andrew Feldman

Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim (TBEMC), Cranford's only Jewish synagogue, capped off a momentous June with the renewal of the Rabbi's contract, a successful year of growth in the Religious School, a celebration honoring longtime members, and the installation of new presidents Andrew Feldman and Craig Schwartz, both of Cranford.

"While it has been a challenging time for Jewish people around the world, TBEMC has served as a source of strength and a spiritual home for our local Jewish community," said Feldman.

Rabbi Paul Kerbel, who joined TBEMC in 2019, recently had his contract extended through 2028 by unanimous approval of the board. "Rabbi Kerbel has worked enthusiastically with our synagogue leadership to expand our programs and services, help to grow and strengthen our religious school, and provide meaningful Jewish educational, cultural, and religious programs for our members and community," said outgoing temple co-presidents Bruce Solomon and C. Mindy Kipness. "Warm and welcoming to congregants and community members of all ages, Rabbi Kerbel has been a constant steadying presence and has built strong relationships with the broader community."

Rabbi Kerbel currently serves as chair of the Cranford Clergy Council and is active with the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest.

Enrollment in the Temple's Religious School

has grown almost 40% over the last five years, under the leadership of Education Director Ellie Barkin-Baron, a lifelong member and Cranford native.

"We foster a joyful learning space where children experience Judaism with creative curricula and family programs that will shape them into knowledgeable, actively practicing young Jews, leading them to explore and embrace their Jewish identities in a lifelong commitment to community, learning, values, and mitzvot," said Barkin-Baron.

Enrollment for the 2024-2025 year is now open with an Open House planned for August 14th from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

TBEMC's June celebrations included the second annual Pride Shabbat on June 7th, celebrating the synagogue's diverse membership. The inclusive energy of the service is something TBEMC strives to bring to the community every day.

The temple held its annual Spring Celebration on June 9th, honoring five longtime members for their legacy of service: Alice Goldfarb, Phyllis Kandl, Marty Metzger, and Laura & Aaron Cohen.

On June 15th, Andrew Feldman and Craig Schwartz were installed as co-presidents, succeeding Solomon's and Kipness.

"TBEMC has been a central part of our town for 107 years," said Schwartz, "and our growing and committed membership will ensure it thrives l'dor v' dor - from generation to generation."

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CALVARY CHURCH WELCOMES NEW PASTOR

There's something new happening at Calvary Lutheran Church - a new pastor! Calvary Lutheran Church in Cranford is excited to announce the calling of Reverend Kathryn Irwin.

Pastor Irwin, or Pastor Kat, (you can call her either) began her ministry at Calvary in early May and was officially installed as pastor on June 23, 2024.

"We are excited to welcome Pastor Irwin to Calvary and explore this new relationship God has helped us to embrace," says Calvary Council President Matthew Spatz. "We look forward to growing in faith, connecting with the community in new ways and continuing our legacy of serving those in need as we begin this new chapter at Calvary."

Pastor Irwin is passionate about her call to serve her siblings in Christ as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. She is committed to building relationships and growing the church's ministries all while sharing the radically good news of

God's expansive and enthusiastic welcome for all of God's beloved children to have a place in the Church.

"I'm delighted to be here," says Pastor Irwin. "I think God's got something in store for us and I'm excited to find out what it is together."

Pastor Irwin holds a Bachelor of Social Work from Pacific Lutheran University and a Master of Divinity from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Since her ordination in 2016, she has served three congregations in the New Jersey Synod: Holy Trinity, Nutley as a Settled Pastor; St. Stephen, South Plainfield as an Interim Pastor; and St. Paul's, Jersey City as an Interim Pastor.

You are invited to meet Pastor Irwin on any Sunday morning, or by calling the church office at (908) 276-2418. You can also watch our worship online and find more information about Calvary at calvarycranford.com. Calvary has been part of the Cranford community since 1928.



(above) The Reverend Kathryn Irwin after her installation at Calvary Lutheran Church on June 23, 2024, surrounded by colleagues old and new.

Courtesy photo

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Hanson Park Conservancy's 13th Annual Rubber Ducky Derby is scheduled once again for Sunday, October 6, 2024, at 4 p.m. The rain date is Sunday October 13, 2024. On race day, over one thousand individually numbered rubber ducks will be released in the Rahway River at Sperry Park, Cranford NJ and tumble over the falls racing to the finish line at the North Union Ave Bridge. Numerous prizes for the fastest lucky duckies will be awarded. The top prize is a \$250 gift card. All ducks are retrieved after the race.

Ducks can be purchased at two locations:

Periwinkles, on North Union Avenue downtown Cranford, or the Cranford Canoe Club on Springfield Ave. Purchase a single Duck for \$5 or a flock of 5 ducks for \$20. Please secure your tickets early as ducks are limited, and the race has been known to sell out. Please check social media (Hanson Park Conservancy) for updates on race day.

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



(above) At the finish line, watching for the winning duck!

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