

CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ

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CLASS OF 1972 CELEBRATES THEIR 70TH BIRTHDAY TOGETHER

Members of the Cranford High School Class (CHS) of 1972 know that their childhood and teenage years were unique. Classmates were born in 1954, right in the middle of the “Baby Boomers” generation (born 1946-1964). With early childhoods in the 1960s, boomers lived through the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights movement, women’s liberation, sexual freedom, and the increase in the use of recreational drugs. They remember the moon landing, Beatlemania, vinyl records, cassette tapes, rotary telephones, drive-in movies, and Tiny Tim’s marriage to Miss Vicki on the Johnny Carson Show. The horrific assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King remain seared on their memories.

These shared life experiences have created a lifelong bond among classmates. More than 50 years have passed since their graduation, but the nearly 500 CHS graduates have remained in communication and have had 5 reunions with strong attendance.

The class had their 50th reunion in 2022, but they didn’t want to wait another 5 years to get together again. So they decided to have a special “Birthday Party” reunion weekend, to celebrate classmates’ turning 70 years old.

“Growing up, we all went to each other’s birthday parties,” said Fay Painter, Co-Chair of the Reunion

Committee. “We remember playing kick ball, board games, dress up, dolls...and just plain hanging out with each other. We wanted to create a very informal weekend experience with lots of time to reconnect to share old memories and to create some new ones.”

The party started Friday, September 13 with a “Swinging 70’s Golf outing, followed by a picnic dinner at the Deutscher Club of Clark, and the CHS Football game Cranford vs. Carteret Friday evening. Saturday, classmates gathered at 9 a.m. for a historical walk, led by the Historical Society. At 10:30, there was a memorial tree planting on Centennial Avenue. At noon, classmates attended various meetups for each elementary school, where they shared memorabilia. The afternoon was spent at “Cranstock,” Cranford’s own version of “Woodstock” at Nomahegan Park, featuring bands playing music from the 60’s and 70’s. On Sunday, there was a memorial service honoring 56 classmates who have passed. The weekend concluded with a spectacular brunch at Galloping Hills Country Club, complete with games and a birthday cake.

“I think the weekend exceeded its goals. We heard nothing but positive feedback and appreciation. We are all looking forward to our 55th reunion in 2027,” Painter remarked.

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(above) Cranford High School Class of 1972

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CRANFORD'S WITCHES NIGHT OUT – OCT. 17TH

Join the Cranford Woman's Club (CWC) for a spooktacular night on October 17th for Witches Night Out. Come with friends and meet up in town for this popular Cranford event. The event runs from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Thursday, October 17, 2024. It supports charitable causes.

Attendees will receive a witch hat, a booklet with loads of downtown biz specials and discounts, entry to the tricky tray and so much more. There are two ticket levels: the Broomstick Ticket (Base Ticket) is \$20 and includes: Coupon Book, Hat Decorating Contest, Tricky Tray, Scavenger Hunt. The Cauldron Ticket (Base + Service) is \$40 and includes all of the above plus a 10-minute tarot reading or a psychic reading. It's a great night supporting our businesses while enjoying time with your favorite witches! The Tricky Tray prizes are awesome – have a laugh watching friends roam the streets with decorated hats. Don't miss out! Tickets are available via

EventBrite.

The Cranford Woman's Club donated more than \$35,000 last year to the community, including Cranford Family Care, Project Home, and First Aid Squad. Proceeds of the event will be donated to Bosom Buddies and the CWC Philanthropic Fund.

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.

The Cranford Woman's Club runs several major events each year including Witches Night Out, The Home for the Holidays House Tour (12/3), Breakfast with the Bunny, and Sip 'N Shop. The Club's Philanthropic focus is on Cranford, with major beneficiaries being Project Home, Cranford Family Care, Cranford First Aid Squad and FLAG. The club meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the VFW on South Avenue at 7:30 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend.



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RESTORATION OF 9/11 MEMORIAL

Township of Cranford

The Township thanks Cranford Boy Scouts, and the Cranford Department of Public Works crews, for restoring the 9/11 Memorial at Crane's Park.

Since the memorial was erected in 2003, each



(above) The Township of Cranford recognizes and is thankful to the boy scouts of Troop 75, the Cranford Department of Public Works and Administrator Lavona Patterson for the restoration of the 9/11 Memorial at Crane's Park.

Photos by Township of Cranford

year Township employees work together to beautify the 9/11 Memorial in advance of the annual memorial service. This year the park received a complete restoration.

Cranford Boy Scout from Troop 75, Sean Hanna, chose to repair and upgrade the park and memorial for an Eagle Scout Award. He collaborated with fellow scouts, Township Administrator Lavona Patterson, and the Department of Public Works (DPW) to complete the project.

"We are so proud of our Public Works team and these young men who worked side-by-side all summer, often in scorching hot weather, to complete the work in time for the annual 9/11 Memorial Service. This Memorial was a result of residents and the Township coming together to create a lasting tribute to six Cranford residents who died on 9/11," said Kathleen Miller Prunty, Township Commissioner and Public Works Commissioner.

"We thank those who worked tirelessly after 9/11, and the team that worked to create a beautiful public space to honor Dean P. Eberling, Christopher Michael Grady, Robert H. Lynch, Jr., Gregory Milanowycz, Thomas M. Regan, Leonard J. Snyder, Jr. and all those who were lost," said Ms. Miller Prunty.

Sean, with help from scouts Eric Kimball, Colin Kimball, Max Drobitskiy and Arthur

Hrycak of Troop 75, worked in partnership with DPW employees Gary Gonzalez, Adam Jackson, Anthony Gonzalez, Adam Kopnis and Luis Ruiz over several months this summer to complete the improvements, resulting in new landscaping, repairs of entrance steps to the park, resetting and replacing paver walkways, and repairs to the monument, including lighting.

Cranford Fire Chief Daniel J. Czeh thanked Township Administrator Patterson for her leadership to see this restoration project through to completion. "We truly appreciate the priority you put on the 9/11 Memorial Park. I've had my team assist the DPW with cleaning the park for the last nine years, as we felt the park needed additional TLC for the ceremony," Chief Czeh said in a statement. "You made sure the 9/11 Memorial was upgraded, cleaned and ready."

The 9/11 Memorial is located on the corner of North Union and Springfield Avenues, across the street from the Municipal Building. The memorial service, on Wednesday, September 11, at 6:30 p.m. hosted by the Cranford WTC Committee and the Cranford Clergy Council, pays respect to the six Cranford men and their families, along with the nearly 3,000 people who died on September 11, 2001, at the WTC, Pentagon and in United Airlines Flight 93 as a result of the terrorist attacks against the United States.

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(above) Have you got your Ducky?

LAST CALL FOR RUBBER DUCKY RACE 2024

Hanson Park Conservancy's 13th Annual Rubber Ducky Derby is scheduled for Sunday, October 6, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. The Race is held at Sperry Park in Cranford, NJ. The rain date is Sunday October 13, 2024.

On race day, over one thousand individually numbered rubber ducks will tumble over the falls at Sperry Park 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.

Boy Scouts are on hand to collect every rubber ducky after the race is completed. They are then cleaned and reused for next year's 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 \$5.00 or a flock of 5 ducks for \$20.00. Please secure your tickets early as ducks are limited,

and the race has been known to sell out.

We will also sell ducks the morning of the race in Sperry Park between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. No duck sales after 2 pm as we need to prepare them for the big race.

Cranford's own Bernie Wagenblast returns this year as our Race MC. We have three top prizes and a variety of other prizes. Winner does not need to be present to win.

In case of inclement weather, please check social media for updates on race conditions.

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.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday at Sperry Park.

Have you got your Ducky? See you at the Race!

WHEN THERE WERE WITCHES - OCT 8

College Women's Club of Cranford
Free and open to the public.

Lecture Title

When There Were Witches: An Exploration of the Salem Witch Trials

Presenter

Mickey DiCamillo, trustee at the Historical Society of Moorestown, research librarian and archivist

Date

Tuesday, October 8, 2024 @ 7:30 p.m.

Location

First Presbyterian Church, Thomson Hall, 11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford

Description

In January of 1692, a strange illness seized control of five young girls living in Salem Village, a contentious and divided town in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. When medical professionals couldn't identify the illness, the town believed the girls had come "under an evil hand." Events soon spiraled out of control with local divisions and a splintered colonial government feeding the frenzy. Archivist Mickey DiCamillo unravels the events with archival documents from the period, and program participants will interact with transcripts from the 1692 interrogations of suspected witches. Participants will also learn where the documents live online, so they can investigate more on their own. A Q&A session follows the presentation.

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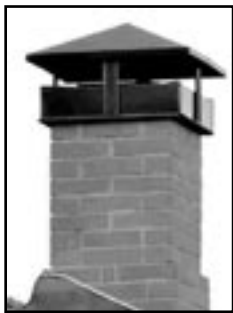
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CLASS OF 1974 CELEBRATES 50TH REUNION

Members of the Cranford High School class of 1974 gathered in Cranford on the weekend of September 13 – 14, 2024. Some of their activities included a golf outing, a Cranford HS home football game, meet 'n greet Cranford downtown bar crawl, the Cranstock summer wing 2024 festival at Nomehegan Park, and the grand finale was a 50th Reunion Dinner held at the Gran Centurions in Clark.

Courtesy photos



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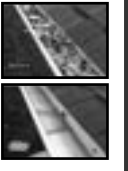
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Cranford High School Performing Arts Department will present its annual Opening Gala Concert on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. It is free and open to the public. The concert has become a back-to-school tradition in Cranford and provides parents and the community a first look at the performing groups for the coming year. The concert features first performances from the Cranford High School Concert Choir, Madrigal Choir, Noteworthy and West End Blend a cappella groups, the CHS

String Orchestra, Jazz Band, and Concert Band, as well as the CHS Performing Arts Dancers and Actors, and the Cougar Marching Band. The Cranford High School spring musical production will also be announced. "The Opening Gala is a favorite concert of parents and community members because it's a little bit of everything we do," said Anthony Rafaniello, director of the choral program. "It's a great way to welcome the new school year and the new performance season."

BOOK SALE – OCT. 17-19

Friends of the Cranford Public Library

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 library's "Friendly Book Cellar." Browse through shelves full of 25,000+ books and make as many selections as you'd like! Most adult hardcover books are \$2.00 and paperback books are \$1.00. Most children's books are 25 cents or 50 cents!

The Book Sale will take place on Thursday, October 17 (1-8 p.m.), Friday, October 18 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.), and Saturday, October 19 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.), which is Bag Day. For just \$8, you can fill a shopping bag with books. Cash or checks only. Registration is required and can be done so at cranfordlibrary.org/friends.php

The Friends look forward to seeing you at the "Friendly Book Cellar." The Friends of the Library is a non-profit organization. Proceeds of all book sales and monetary donations benefit library programming and events for all ages throughout the year.

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FOUR HEROES TO BE FEATURED THIS YEAR AT MEMORIAL DAY 2025

A foreword by Don Sweeney

Nine years ago, I shared my experience at the Cranford Memorial Day Ceremony, which eventually grew into what many now recognize simply as the Cranford 86. The tablets bearing the names of 85 men (Father Watters is missing) who went to war and never returned have become a powerful symbol of our town's respect and gratitude for those brave souls who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Our team takes great pride in knowing that our research and writing have brought these heroes' life stories to light, detailing how their military service led to their loss. In 2014, when we first started, a Google search of their names would yield little to no information. Today, that same search will lead you to our stories and photographs that document these heroes' lives.

Initially, I wrote each story, with facts provided by Steve Glazer and Stu Rosenthal. Over time, we've expanded our team to include other voices for different perspectives. Janet Ashnault, a Gold Star family member, joined us during the writing of her husband's brother's story, Vietnam War Cranford 86 honoree Raymond Ashnault. Starting as a skilled proofreader, Janet has since evolved into a co-writer and now a talented storyteller in her own right, bringing a unique empathy that adds the compassion our Cranford 86 stories are known for. Vic Bary, a decorated

Vietnam veteran who previously served as our Military Expert, now leads the writing on Vietnam hero profiles. His emotional connection to his fallen comrades gives his stories a distinct and poignant perspective. Lastly, Barry Mazza, our newest team member, has brought expertise in the latest technologies, providing us with a better platform to deliver our mission to readers.

Each year after Memorial Day, our team gathers to assess the research ahead and the interest in specific stories from our project's supporters. Together, we decide which of our currently anonymous heroes will be unveiled to our readers in the Cranford Monthly and on our website, Cranford86.org. This year, we found inspiration in the Apple TV series Masters of the Air, which depicts the WWII flight crews of the Army Airmen of the 100th Bomber Squadron, the B-17 Flying Fortress-powered "Bloody 100th". Remarkably, our list of Cranford 86 soldiers and airmen includes 25 pilots or crew members—co-pilots, navigators, bombardiers, aerial gunners, and electronic warfare officers. The series resonated with us not only because it portrays real WWII heroes, but also because it highlights the brotherhood among these men, offering insights into the relationships our 25 heroes likely experienced as well.

The series also showcases the engineering marvels that these incredibly young airmen had

at their disposal, from the B-17 itself to the top-secret Norden bombsight, which has been featured in some of our past stories. For those planning to read our upcoming four stories in the Cranford Monthly, we recommend watching the nine hours of this series either before or after reading, as it may provide a deeper understanding and appreciation of the profiles of our 2024-2025 heroes.



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Written by Vic Bary; researched by Janet Ashnault, Susan Franks and Vic Bary

PARADISE LOST

Two young American boys gambol on the beaches of Aruba. Sprinting first across the sand, only to dive into the warm Caribbean seas to swim and swim and swim. Then they come out of the water and repeat the process all over again. On other days they explore the island's caves and abandoned mines. For young Tony Johnson and Vlad Broz, whose fathers were American engineers employed by Standard Oil and working in Aruba, life seemed an unending vacation. But like all vacations, this one would come to an end, but the friendship between the two boys would endure.

PRE-CRANFORD YEARS

Anthony Kent Johnson was born October 8, 1940 in Fulton, New York. He had one younger brother, Terry. (Terry would receive an Electrical Engineering degree from Norwich University, and would become a US Army 2nd Lieutenant (2LT) and would serve in Vietnam in 1972.)

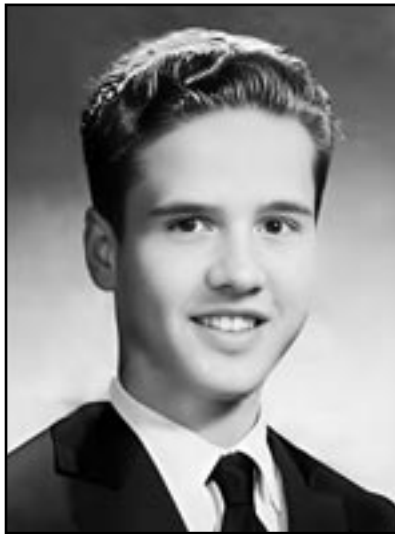
Anthony's younger years showed frequent travel between the continental United States and Aruba, most likely associated with his father Ernest's employment. His father, along with his best friend Vlad Broz's father, were engineers for Standard Oil Company. Neighboring island Curacao was a refining stop for South American petroleum.

The two families lived in the corporation's Lago Colony on the east end of Aruba. For the two boys, Aruba was a magical place. They spent their free time swimming, running on the beach and exploring caves and abandoned mines. They never owned cold weather clothes. US entry records show Anthony: arriving in Miami May 12, 1945 aboard a Royal Dutch Airlines flight; arriving in Boston June 7, 1948 from Aruba; and arriving in New York City April 15, 1950 from Curacao. In 1953 Standard Oil relocated both families to New Jersey.

Anthony's family settled in Cranford at 611 Springfield Avenue. His friend, Vlad Broz, whose father had moved his family to Westfield at the same time, posted the following in 2011 on the "Wall of Faces" Vietnam Veterans Memorial website:

"My Best Budd – So Long Ago. Some memories never die, and those growing up with Tony in Aruba, and then Cranford were fun. Our six week drive to Acapulco in my '53 Plymouth just before he joined the AF was a proper send-off. Last time I saw him was in 1963. He was based at Columbus, MS and I was off to the Army Helicopter flight school in Texas. I was with Air America, Saigon when I heard of his crash. Saw the wreckage in Da Nang. Big bummer. Visited his memorial at Andersen AFB in Guam years later. We sure had some fun times."

(Note: Air America was the clandestine CIA air operation in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. After piloting for the US Army and then Air America, Vlad went on to a career as a corporate helicopter pilot.)



(above, left) Anthony (Tony) Johnson, eighteen years old, as he looked in 1958. Pictured here as a rising senior from the 1958 Cranford High School yearbook, the Golden C.



(above, right) Captain Anthony Johnson, is pictured here at his Cranford home while on leave between his three deployments as a career Air Force officer.



(above) Anthony's home in Cranford, 611 Springfield Avenue, as of 2024.

CRANFORD YEARS

The Johnson family took up residence at 611 Springfield Avenue in Cranford in 1953, and Tony would complete the remainder of his public school education in Cranford, graduating from Cranford High School in 1958. The yearbook and his 1967 obituary state that he was a member of the Chess Club, Biology Club, Bowling Club, and Rifle Club. His yearbook entry says he loved building, flying, and repairing model airplanes, but disliked work. Those who knew him said they remember him as a "sweet kid".

Upon graduating CHS, Tony began studies at the New York Anthony's home in Cranford, 611 Springfield Avenue, as of 2024. State Agricultural and Technical Institute from which he graduated in 1962. During the summers he was employed as a lifeguard at the Cranford Swim Club off of Kenilworth Boulevard in Cranford. It was there in 1960 that Susan Frank, who would provide much of the information we have about Tony before he joined the Air Force upon college graduation, first met him. She said Tony was dating a member of the swimming pool staff, while she was dating his best friend Vlad. Upon graduation, and before joining the military to become a United States Air Force (USAF) navigator (Tony) and a US Army helicopter pilot (Vlad), the two friends set off on an extended trip to Acapulco, Mexico. On the way out, they stopped by Susan Frank's college in South Carolina to visit her. Upon their return from Mexico, Susan said they had so little money left that they couldn't take the New Jersey Turnpike home. (It was Vlad who would later inform Susan of Tony's death in 1967.)

Tony then began officer training at the USAF Cadet School in Harlingen, Texas. He planned to make a career in the Air Force. In January, 1964, Tony Johnson married Bromley Roberts of Belmont, MA. They would have one child. Vlad wanted to be a pilot, but at 6' 5" tall, found he exceeded the Air Force height limit for pilots. So he joined the US Army and began primary helicopter flight training at Ft Wolters, Texas. Both friends would successfully complete their military officer training.

MILITARY EXPERIENCE

Upon completion of Cadet School, Tony was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the USAF. He was then sent to Advanced Navigator Training at Mather Air Force Base (AFB), Sacramento, California. There he was qualified as both a navigator and a radar operator. He became part of the Strategic Air Command (SAC), and was subsequently promoted to 1st Lieutenant, and then to Captain in 1966. Between 1965 and 1967, Captain (CPT) Johnson completed three 6-month Vietnam tours of duty, serving on B-52 bombers conducting Arc Light bombing missions. During his military service he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and numerous Air Medals. (Although not mentioned in various articles, he would also be entitled to the Purple Heart, which is reflected on his military gravestone.)

B-52 BOMBERS AND ARC LIGHT

The B-52 "Stratofortress" was an eight engine, subsonic jet bomber introduced in 1952 to play the role of strategic nuclear bomber during the Cold War. It remains in operation today, more than 70 years later. With the increased United States involvement in Vietnam, a number of B-52D models were converted to "Big Belly" versions capable of carrying 30 tons of conventional bombs. That payload would include eighty-four 500-lb bombs within the bomb bay and another twenty-four 750-lb bombs on under wing pylons. This configuration was used for "Arc Light" bombing missions.

Arc Light missions would engage in bombing enemy: bases, supply routes, behind the lines troop concentrations, and occasionally in direct support of ground troops in combat (as they did at Khe Sanh in 1968). They would bomb from an altitude of 30,000 feet, and the enemy would be unaware of their presence until the bombs began to detonate. Arc Light bombing raids were conducted between November, 1965 and April, 1973 overtly in South and North Vietnam, and covertly in Cambodia and Laos.

I have several strong recollections of Arc Light strikes from my 1967 service in Vietnam.

(continued on page 16)

CAPTAIN ANTHONY KENT JOHNSON (continued from page 12)



(above, l-r) Cpt. Anthony K. Johnson, 1st Lt. John A. Prescott, 2nd Lt. Robert R. Tuttle, 2nd Lt. Bruce E. Nostrand

While flying a helicopter mission close to the Cambodian border, we flew over the site of an earlier Arc Light strike. The bomb craters were filled with monsoonal rain water, and as I watched, a column of three US Army M-48 main battle tanks (each 30 feet in length) carefully skirted one of the bomb craters. The three tank column measured less than half the circumference of the bomb crater.

Several times while sleeping in my bunk at my Phu Loi Army airbase, an Arc Light strike being conducted somewhere west of us caused my bunk to dance across the concrete floor, with me in it. Arc Light strikes were truly awe-inspiring, even the ground quivered in response.

THE CRASH OF B-52D TAIL NUMBER 56-0601

1967 found Captain Anthony Johnson on his third six-month Vietnam tour, assigned to 736th Bomber Squadron, 254th Bomb Wing (on temporary duty), and 4133rd Bomb Wing (Provisional) of SAC. The unit flew its missions out of Andersen USAF base, Guam. These would be 14-hour missions requiring two in-flight refuelings.

On July 8, 1967, CPT Johnson's aircraft (code name "Corny 26") was part of a three-plane cell ("Brown 2") tasked with bombing Vinh, North Vietnam and then landing at U-Tapao Thai Royal Navy airfield in Thailand. Tony was substituting for another navigator who was unable to make the flight. During the mission "Corny 26" experienced electrical problems preventing it from extending its flaps during landing to slow the aircraft. Some sources also reported that it had lost power to two of its eight engines. The pilot, Major Gene W. Brown, asked for and received permission to divert to Da Nang airfield in South Vietnam about 290 miles south of Vinh. The official accident report continues.

Unable to lower flaps to reduce the landing speed, the pilot made a go-around and touched down at higher than normal landing speed within the first 1,000 feet of the runway. However, the plane skip-bounced back into the air coming down nearly 6,000 feet later. It overran the end of the runway at 100 knots (nearly 115 mph). Its undercarriage hit the bottom of a drainage ditch and the nose of the plane hit the ground. The plane broke apart and caught fire, coming to rest in a minefield and detonating some of the mines. The fire was so intense that a rescue helicopter was waved off. Firefighters would battle the blaze for three hours.

All five officers in the cockpit of the plane, including CPT Anthony Johnson, were killed. Only the tail gunner, Technical Sergeant (TSGT) Albert I. Whitley survived after rescuers chopped apart his Plexiglas canopy and extracted him. He had only minor scratches and abrasions.

During the Vietnam War B-52s flew 126,615 sorties (flights by an individual aircraft). Tony's B-52 would be one of 13 B-52s lost to "operational issues" (loss due to other than hostile fire). Another 18 B-52s would be lost to hostile fire.

FINAL THOUGHTS

At the time of his death, Tony and Bromley Johnson had a 10-month old son, Christopher Allyn. Tony's remains were returned to the US and he was interred at the Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Liberty Corner, New Jersey. CPT Anthony Kent Johnson, the "sweet kid" to his friends and neighbors, served his country with honor and distinction. It is so unfortunate that his story ended as it did, especially since he was not originally assigned to the flight that took his life.

Researcher and friend Susan Franks best summed of the tragedy of Tony Johnson's loss:

"I just remember this cute, happy go lucky kid, hanging out at the pool, going on double dates to the drive in movies and then, the last time I saw him, on his way to Mexico for an adventure with his buddy Vlad. All these years later, when I found out he had tragically died in Vietnam, it brought back a lot of the feelings I had about that war at the time and now. It was just so wrong that this great kid should not be alive with us now, to be with his wife, raise his son, and to have grandchildren. All for a war that our politicians and military personnel knew we could not win. It became important to me that Tony not be forgotten and that his family should know that their loss and pain was acknowledged. So that started me on this journey and I am so grateful that Janet and Vic have joined me. I'm just hoping that someday we'll hear from a member of his family or a friend who will see his flag and story and know they are not alone in missing him."

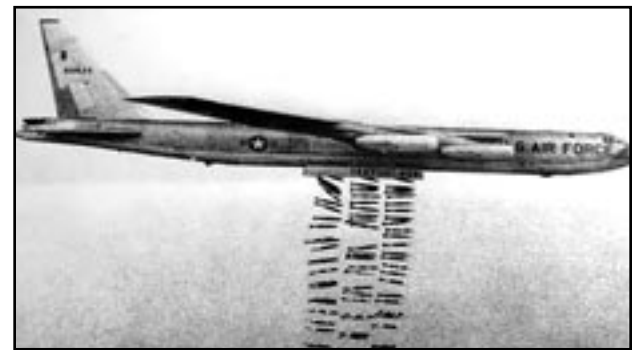
A special note of thanks is due to Susan Franks and to Cranford 86 volunteer Janet Ashnault for their invaluable assistance in researching this story.



(left) The arm patch that Tony Johnson wore as a navigator on the five-member flight crew in the 736th Bomber Squadron.



(above) B-52D with its full payload of weaponry, also known as a "full ordinance load".



(above) A B-52 demonstrating its capability to drop massive amounts of bombs in short order.



(above) A photo of an M-48A3 tank taken by author Vic Bary in Vietnam.



(above) As a custom of our Cranford 86 team, we do our best to visit the grave of our hero if it is at all possible. We located Tony's modest grave in the Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church cemetery, not far from volunteer Janet Ashnault's home. With some basic gardening tools we groom the grass around the brass plaque and position an American Flag while saying a little prayer.



Mountainside's Restaurant Week is back for the second year! It will run from **OCTOBER 14TH THROUGH THE 20TH.** There will be ten establishments offering plenty of opportunities to take advantage of.

Choose from breakfast at the Mountainside Deli, a mouthwatering sandwich from Mazzella's or a romantic dinner at the Spanish Tavern.

There will be something for everyone.

Most of the restaurants offer outdoor dining or if you prefer to eat in the comfort of your own home, all of the restaurants offer take out.

Visit the Restaurant Week website **mountainsiderestaurantweek.com** for more information, including a full list of participating establishments.

Participating Establishments:

- Bovella's • Chrono's • Echo Tap • Famous Dave's
- Mazzella's • Mosaico • Mountainside Deli
- Publick House • Spanish Tavern • Stage House Tavern

CRANFORD BARBER SHOP GRAND RE-OPENING

Cranford Barber Shop celebrated its Grand Re-opening on August 7, 2024, after moving from North Avenue to its new location at 108 Walnut Avenue. Cranford Barber Shop originally opened in 1922 and though the location has changed, the traditional, old-timey service has stayed the same. The new owner, Mike Rosa, worked at the old

shop for over 2 years. His colleagues Tony DiLillo has over 40 years' experience, and Vince Rivetti has over 50 years.

Opened from Tuesday through Saturday, the shop offers regular men's haircuts and beard trimming to walk-in customers. All haircuts are only \$18.



(above, l-r) Cranford Barber Shop haircutters and customers, Tony Dilello with Felice Giannobile, Mike Rosa with John Trapp, Vince Ribetti with Tom DiRusso.

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BOY SCOUT TROOP 75 NEWS

Boy Scout Troop 75 of Cranford conducted a service project for the Abraham Clark Memorial House on August 17, 2024. The Boy Scouts and Leaders cleaned up the windows, sidewalks, grindstone, monument and chairs, helping the Abraham Clark Chapter of the New Jersey Society of the Sons of the American Revolution get ready for the 105th anniversary commemoration of the Abraham Clark Monument in front of the house on September 14. The Boy Scouts who volunteered were Ryan Gurski, Colin and Eric Kimball, Owen and Kyle Santos, and Arthur Hrycak. The Scout Leaders who volunteered were Max Drobitskiy, Paul and Nicole Kimball, Jorge Santos, Joseph Gurski, and Orest Hrycak. Contact Chris Sands at chrisands44@aol.com for any questions on the Sons of the American Revolution or the Abraham Clark Memorial House.



JOIN US FOR A VILLAINOUS ADVENTURE - OCT 18

Prepare for a wickedly fun experience as the Livingston Avenue School Haunted House returns on October 18 and 19, 2024, with a new theme: Disney Villains! This year, guests will step into a world of mischief and mayhem, encountering iconic villains such as Maleficent, Gothel, Gaston, Scar, Jafar, Ursula, Cruella rooms, and the Oogie Boogie graveyard.

Dare to explore rooms filled with dastardly deeds and nefarious plans as these infamous Disney Villains come to life, creating a hauntingly magical experience for all ages. Come dressed in your favorite costumes and be prepared for an evening of spine-tingling fun!

In addition to the haunted house, enjoy refreshments, games, and activities that are perfect for families and friends looking to embrace the Halloween spirit. Proceeds from the event will support the Livingston Avenue School PTA, funding important school programs and initiatives.

The Haunted House will be held on October 18 and 19 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Livingston Avenue School, 75 Livingston Avenue, Cranford, NJ. Tickets are \$5 per person at the door, or you can purchase "fast-pass" tickets online for \$7 per person (which will get you in approximately within a 15-minute time frame) at lashauntedhouse.com.

For more information, please contact Laura and Tim Styler at LASHauntedHouse@yahoo.com.

ABOUT LIVINGSTON AVENUE SCHOOL PTA:

The Livingston Avenue School PTA is committed to enhancing the educational experience of students by supporting teachers, organizing events, and fostering community engagement. Our annual Haunted House is a highlight of the year, bringing families together for a night of fun while raising funds to benefit our school.

TRICKY TRAY RAFFLE NOV. 9

St. Michael School Cranford

You're invited to St. Michael School Cranford's Annual Tricky Tray to be held on Saturday, November 9th, 2024.

Admission tickets can be purchased for \$25 starting on October 8, 2024 until tickets sell out. You must have an admission ticket to attend this event this year. Purchase tickets at smscranford.com.

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For more information, please follow us on Facebook: St. Michael School, Cranford Tricky Tray Or you may contact SMSTrickyTray100@gmail.com or the school directly at saint.michael@verizon.net or call 908-276-9425.

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Courtesy photo

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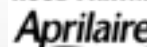
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BROTHERS TO COMPETE AT NATIONALS

After going undefeated in the USTA New Jersey Middle States Tennis Championships in September, Cranford brothers Brian and Michael Curci will be headed to Orlando Florida to play in the United States Tennis Association National Adaptive Tennis Championships from October 4-6, 2024.

The tournament, which will be played at the world famous USTA National Tennis Center, features winning teams from all over the country who earned their way after capturing their respective state championships.

Team Curci advanced after winning all four matches against teams from New Jersey, finishing 4-0 in the round-robin competition at the River Winds Tennis Club. They then defeated the Delaware Champions to win the

Middle States title. Both teams advanced to the National championships.

The 2024 Adaptive Tennis Championships feature Unified doubles teams — pairs composed of an athlete with a cognitive and/or developmental disability and their partner with a disability, called a unified partner. Teams from USTA sections will be divided into five round-robin groups to compete.

“It’s a great honor and I’m so excited to be going to Orlando to play against the best players in the country,” said Brian Curci, who has won a number of gold medals while competing in Special Olympics tennis. “My brother and I played really well and we’re proud to be the New Jersey champions and represent our state.”

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(above) Brian and Michael Curci (right) defeated Delaware for the USTA Middle States title.

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ANNUAL PECAN FUNDRAISER

Floraphile Garden Club

The advent of autumn brings falling leaves, cozy sweaters, pumpkin spice lattes and, of course, the Floraphile Garden Club of Cranford's Annual Georgia Pecan Fundraiser! This year we are excited to announce that we have added an additional variety of pecans to our offerings: the Southern Praline Pecan. This is a sweet and buttery confection with a perfectly crunchy Georgia pecan in the middle. This tasty treat comes packaged in a 12 oz. foil-wrapped bag and makes a lovely gift. We will also be offering our original three varieties of delicious, gourmet Schermer Pecans for only \$12 a bag. The Fancy Mammoth Pecan Halves are perfect for baking and at 16oz., this is our largest bag available. The Dark Chocolate Pecans are our best-selling pecans! These decadent nuts come in a 12 oz. foil-wrapped bag, and may become your next snacking obsession. The Cinnamon Glazed

Pecans have a cinnamon sugar coating with the perfect touch of vanilla. These 10 oz. packages are foil-wrapped and splendid. They are wonderful in salads or as a sweet treat.

At \$12 a bag, these pecans make great gifts for family, friends, teachers and co-workers. You won't find a better quality pecan this side of the Mason-Dixon Line! They also freeze really well so you can enjoy these gourmet treats all year long. To place an order, please reach out to Mary Ellen at mecrafts@verizon.net. Orders are expected to arrive by Thanksgiving.

Proceeds from this fundraiser support the Floraphile Garden Club of Cranford and their involvement in numerous community service projects, including horticulture therapy, community clean-up/beautification programs and civic outreach. Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram to take a peek at all of our fun activities.

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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
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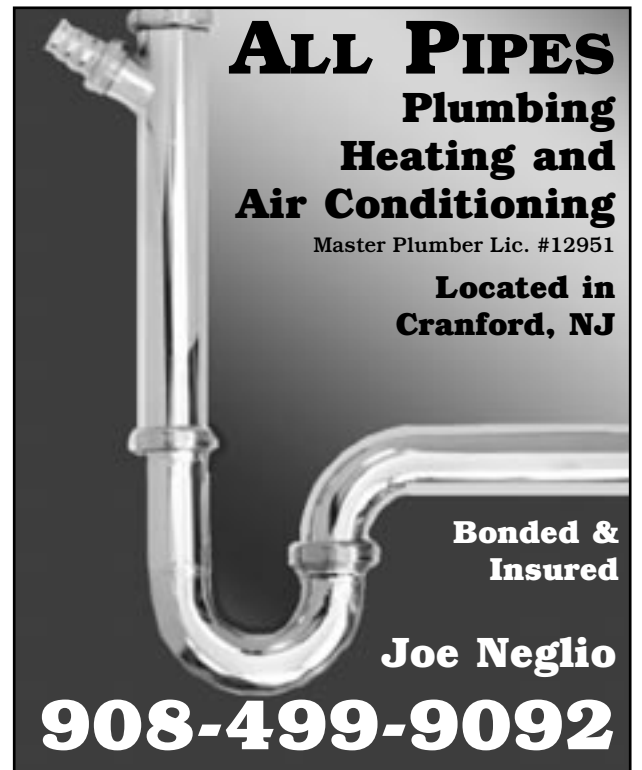
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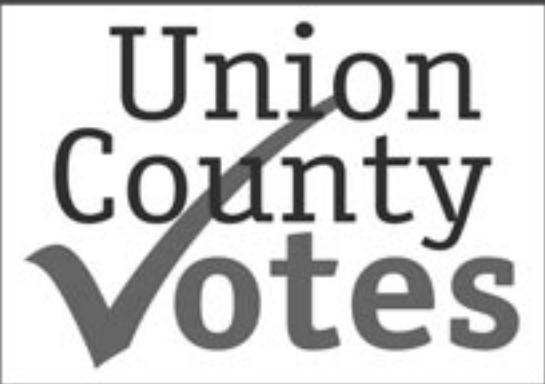
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