

# CRANFORD MONTHLY<sub>NJ</sub>

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## JAYCEES ROAD RACE HAD A RECORD 2,058 PARTICIPANTS

Thousands gathered on the Fourth of July for the 46th annual Cranford Jaycees Firecracker Road Race and Fun Run. The races have more than doubled in size over the last decade with a record 2,216 participants competing, with hundreds more cheering them on under sunny skies at Nomahegan Park and around town.

The top male finisher in the four-miler was Ben Fleischer of Scotch Plains with a time of 19:10, while the top female finisher was Denise Grohn of Branchburg with a time of 23:18.

Sean Swift was the top Cranford finisher, placing 3rd overall with a time of 20:49.

Cranford residents dominated the Fun Run with Patrick McComb, age 15, leading the boys with a time of 5:48 and Alexa Saleh, age 12, leading the girls at 7:10. Full results are available online at [cranfordjaycees.org/road-race](http://cranfordjaycees.org/road-race).



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 these graduating students: Isabella Alvarez-Gomez, Morgan Bond, Madison Cardona, Reilly Cogdill, Grace Davies, Ella Deal, Courtney Domber, Mark Doyle, Claire Ficarro, Donovan Frees-Kroboth, Marcella Godoy-Pleitez, Amanda Guadalupe, Sean Hanna, Adriana Junio, Grace McCloskey, Ava Morrison, Ava Orr, Charles Otten, Molly Parker, Carissa Pecoraro, Adrianna Pizzuta, Ashlyn Quigley, Leo Reguera, Angelina Ret, Sophia Santomauro, John Struble, Ethan Stubler, Olivia Wall, and Kate Zambito.

Courtesy photos

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CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ

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BECOME A LITERACY NJ VOLUNTEER TUTOR

Literacy New Jersey-Union and Middlesex Counties announces its Tutor Training Program. There will be a information session on Wednesday August 6 at 6 p.m. If you are interested in registering for tutor training, you must attend one of the information session.

The Tutor Training Program will begin on Tuesday August 19th and will provide tutor trainees with the tools and strategies necessary for working with adult students in one of four categories: English As A Second Language, High School Equivalency, Basic Skills or Job Skill/Digital Literacy.

All training sessions will be conducted online via Zoom. The five required training sessions will take place on August 19, 26, Sept. 2, 9, 16 from 6 pm to 8 pm.

After completing the training sessions, tutors are matched with a small group of adult students from the growing waiting list of students who need to improve their literacy skills. Tutors meet with their students online for 2 hours per week. After meeting your students, tutor trainees may be matched with a tutor mentor to guide them through their first lesson plans. New tutor volunteers are asked to make a commitment of at least 50 hours of instruction with students.

Literacy New Jersey provides ongoing supervision and support to tutors in the form of free Professional Development workshops on specific topics such as Health Literacy, ESL Conversation, Small Group Instruction and Job Readiness.

To volunteer, you must be at least 18 years old, able to speak English and willing to tutor in Union County or Middlesex County. You do not need to have any teaching experience and you do not need to speak a foreign language. The training will provide volunteers with techniques and strategies for working with adult learners, as well as sample instructional materials and activities. There is a \$25 registration fee to cover the cost of books and materials. Literacy New Jersey is a non-profit organization.

For more information or to register, please call Literacy New Jersey at 908-486-1777 or email [bbagger@literacynj.org](mailto:bbagger@literacynj.org).



(above) Make A Difference Become a Literacy New Jersey Volunteer Tutor. There will be a mandatory information session on Wednesday August 6 at 6 p.m. on Zoom.

Courtesy Photo

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# JLEP ANNOUNCES 2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield (JLEP) awarded three \$4,000 scholarships at their Annual Dinner on May 21, 2025 to college bound women who demonstrated a passion for volunteerism. The scholarship recipients are:

- Vasyah Mars of Rahway who will be attending Howard University
- Erica Donohue of Westfield, NJ who will be attending Fairleigh Dickinson University
- Laila Quallis of Westfield, NJ who will be attending Morgan State University.

Bernadette Houston, chair of the JLEP Scholarship Committee said “With over 32 qualified scholarship applicants, our Scholarship review committee had their work cut out for them. It is amazing the dedication that these young women have, excelling in studies, sports, and community activities. It was quite a challenge to come up with the top three for the year, but we were finally able to reach a consensus and upon meeting the award winners, our decisions were confirmed. All the young women are well qualified and great representatives of their schools and communities, truly the future volunteers of Union County.”

The Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield awards scholarships each spring. To find out more about the League’s scholarship program or about how to join as a member, please contact the League at 908-709-117, or via email at office@jlepnj.org.

## 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 whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. Its purpose is exclusively educational

and charitable. To learn more about the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield please visit jlepnj.org.

For more information about the Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield, please contact: Stephanie Eckenrode, President, Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield, call (908)709-1177 or email information@jlepnj.org



(above, l-r) Liz Strong, Mary Jackson, Teri DiFrancisco, JLEP Scholarship Committee members, Vasyah Mars, Laila Qualis, Erica Donohue, Scholarship recipients, Bernadette Houston, JLEP Scholarship Committee Chair.

Courtesy Photo

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- 2-4 Goose Egg .....\$135
- 3/4 Arctic White .....\$120

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# GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMBERS VISIT CRANFORD ON MEMORIAL DAY

Submitted by Don Sweeney  
and Janet Cymbaluk Ashnault

In the history of our town, there were 86 men who made the ultimate sacrifice while answering our country’s call to wartime military service. The mission of the Cranford 86 Project is to document their lives, service and untimely deaths. Locating and collaborating with family members or good friends of each of these brave men is one of the most important parts of our research and writing process. Family and friends provide us with anecdotes, documents, precious photos and memories which add a special, personal touch to their serviceman’s narrative. In some cases we are introducing the families to a “long lost” relative who they never knew. Each year, after we write and preserve the stories of four of our fallen, those four are highlighted at Cranford’s Memorial Day ceremony. Having the family and friends of our honorees in attendance brings so much more meaning into this already special observance.

When we work with family and friends of one of Cranford’s 86, a lot of emotion is shared and sometimes tears are shed. As the weeks go by, a relationship is built and when Memorial Day is over, we are reluctant to let them go! This is what sparked the idea for a new group in our 104-year-old Memorial Day Parade, “Gold Star Family Members of Cranford’s 86 Fallen Military”. Family members of previous years’ honorees were formally invited back to Cranford to participate in the parade and ceremony, and they responded, traveling from near and far to be with us. Highlighting the presence of these families helps to remind everyone that, although these servicemen were lost so long ago, there are still people today who feel the hurt of that loss and continue to hold these men dear in their hearts and minds. The new group, with each marcher carrying the flag and/or wearing a button with a photo of their serviceman, was well received along the parade route. Many spectators removed their hats, held a hand over their heart or gave an extra round of applause, all of which were much appreciated. For those who observed these subtle gestures, it was a touching Memorial Day moment. One of our Cranford 86 Facebook followers, Kait Gonzales, expressed the following in regards to the Gold Star families being in attendance, “My kiddos are young and it is a great conversation starter for what Memorial Day is all about, and connecting it to real families who have sacrificed so much right here in our own town”.

The new family members who joined us this year included over a dozen members of the Schnorr family who traveled from Maryland and

Virginia to honor their uncle, Robert Tuttle, a 21-year-old WWII B-29 bombardier. Located by using Ancestry.com, the Schnorr family was “all in” with our plans to honor Lt. Tuttle from our first contact with them, throughout their enthusiastic participation on Memorial Day. From Rachel Schnorr, regarding her family’s experience, “What an honor to be able to march in the parade in Robert’s memory, carry his flag, and especially to be recognized in the ceremony. You all do amazing work, and I can’t imagine there is much in any town in the U.S. that rivals it! This should be getting national news attention!” The Schnorrs left town thinking as we do, that we have some special things going on here in Cranford.

The niece of WWII flight engineer James Lascelles, Katherine Steers Cirrinicione of New York City, joined us with her husband and son. Her uncle’s B-24, lost in the Pacific in 1943, was recovered in 2002. Katherine’s father, Edward Steers, provided a DNA sample which allowed his brother’s remains to finally be identified and buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Of Cranford’s parade and ceremony, Katherine said, “It was such an amazing event. Such a gift. My family is grateful to you and your wonderful town. The parade and ceremony has changed how I think about Memorial Day forever”. We were so pleased to have Katherine’s son Matthew carrying his great-uncle’s flag in the parade.

To every person on Memorial Day who came out as a spectator on the parade route, marched in the parade, attended or participated in the ceremony or worked behind the scenes, thank you! As well as honoring all of America’s fallen military, your involvement provided a show of support and hospitality for the 40 plus family members of our Cranford 86, who chose our town in which to spend their Memorial Day.

This year’s turnout of Cranford family and friends to honor the memory of their loved ones was the largest to date. See the details below indicating where our family members traveled from to join us.

FAMILY OF ATTENDING		FROM
Robert Tuttle .....	VA and MD	
James Lascelles .....	NYC	
Friend Burton ..	Springfield, NJ & Long Island	
Dean Elichko .....	Westfield, NJ	
William Lee .....	Atlanta, GA	
Edward Mandoni .....	Hillsborough, NJ	
Eugene McGarry .....	Cranford	
James Roberts .....	CT and Cranford	
Paul Sjursen .....	Cranford	
Nick Vassallo .....	Springfield, NJ	
Bruce Nostrand .....	PA	
Ray Ashnault .....	Liberty Corner, NJ	

A few guests that joined us this year are worthy of a special mention, Friend Burton, William Lee IV and Kevin Chieff. Friend Burton, is the namesake of his uncle, a Navy Seaman who served on a destroyer in WWII. Friend was instrumental to us in the research and writing of his uncle’s story. Due to the Covid-19 lockdown, Friend was not able to attend the ceremony that honored his uncle, but he is a great supporter of the Cranford 86 Project and he traveled from

Long Island to be with us on Memorial Day this year.

William Lee IV, also a namesake, is the great-grandson of Cranford’s WWII fallen hero, SGT William Lee. SGT Lee was honored on Memorial Day several years ago. William IV came all the way from Atlanta, Georgia with his wife Alisha to visit the hometown of his great-grandfather. His father, William Lee III, is a pastor in Georgia and has been a supporter and resource for the Cranford 86 Project since its beginning. We welcomed William IV and Alisha as the first members of the Lee family to visit us since the start of our project, and we hope that there will be many more!

Kevin Chieff, an alumni of Cranford High School’s class of 1967, traveled from Monmouth County to carry the flag of his classmate and childhood friend, Joe Minnock. Joe Minnock was the first Cranford resident to lose his life in Vietnam and Kevin played a big part in the writing and research of his friend’s tribute story.

In the 10 years since our journey began, the Cranford 86 Project has told the stories of 48 of our town’s fallen heroes, and identified the faces of 79. Our small team of amateur historians will continue to work throughout the year on our mission, to never allow these men to become “just names” on a plaque.

This year we again professionally published two spiral-bound tribute books that contain the detailed stories of our fallen heroes. This year’s 36-page Volume 8, includes a collection of 65 full color photos, some of which were digitally restored to replicate how our heroes looked during the time when they lived here in Cranford. Our complete 265-page book Volume 1-8 was also produced this year, and it is truly a historical Cranford keepsake. Both can be purchased on our website at Cranford86.org or at The Curious Heart Shop at 11 N. Union Ave in Cranford, for those who may like to thumb through the books before purchase. The Curious Heart Shop is a new business in town centered around holistic items and services. The store is stocked with natural body care, crystals, custom essential oils, handmade art and jewelry, clothing and more. The shop is helping us to distribute our books with all donations going directly back to the Cranford 86 Project. If you stop in for a tribute book or a self-care item, let them know you saw it in the Cranford Monthly.

Please look for our redesigned Cranford 86 banners around town. The new banners give this group of servicemen a more distinct identity, differentiating them from other veterans’ banner programs. They now contain the title “Cranford’s Fallen Heroes”, have a larger enhanced photo and a QR code which will connect to the serviceman’s story at Cranford86.org. Sponsorship of a banner is \$300 and can be arranged by contacting us via email at info@cranford86.org or calling (908) 272-0876. All proceeds from book sales and banner sponsorship fees go to support our ongoing expenses for research, printing, the as-needed replacement of our downtown street banners and, of course, the continuation of our mission.



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# GOLD STAR FAMILIES PARTICIPATE IN MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY



(above, left) John Ashnault proudly stands with the image of his brother, Ray Ashnault, in Memorial Park. John was just 10 years old when he lost his brother, who was 21. For Ray's first battle experience, a 2-day firefight, he was awarded a Bronze Star for

(above, right) Katherine Steers and her Pug, Bruce, listen attentively at the Memorial Day Ceremony. The facts of her uncle's life and military service were unknown to her before this year. We really enjoyed meeting Katherine, her husband Tom, and son Matthew.

Photos by Andrew Feldman.

(above) Donna Mandoni Blackburn was dressed very patriotically to honor her uncle, Edward Mandoni, US Navy Armed Guard. Edward lost his life in WWII and was honored on Memorial Day 2024.

(above) Bearing the flags of their 2nd great-uncle Eugene McGarry and Juan Bargas is clearly serious business for Reagan and Dominic. They did an outstanding job with this on Memorial Day.



(above) Our parade's new marching group raised awareness of the void still felt in the hearts of Cranford's Gold Star family members. Janet Cymbaluk Ashnault and Dave Blackburn, representing their fallen family members, Raymond Ashnault and Edward Mandoni, are leading the group.

(above) Nieces and nephew of Friend Burton, US Navy, WWII, with members of the Cranford 86 Project. Shown third from right is Friend Burton's nephew, his namesake. Regretfully, Seaman Friend Burton's banner was dedicated in 2020 during the Covid-19 lockdown. The Burton family members are staunch supporters of our group and we hope to honor their uncle again in the future.



(above) It was wonderful to see three generations of the Schnorr family in attendance to honor Robert Tuttle. Everyone took a turn holding Uncle Robert's flag.

(above) Namesake of WWII Fallen Hero, SGT William Lee, William Lee IV from Atlanta, Georgia, with the Cranford 86 team. Team members Vic Barry, Barry Mazza, Janet Cymbaluk Ashnault and Don Sweeney, take a moment to thank him for joining us. Out of all of the visiting Gold Star families, he and his wife Alisha traveled the furthest distance!

(above) Curt and Doug Schnorr came to Cranford to honor Robert Tuttle, their "long lost uncle" who was reintroduced to them by the Cranford 86 Project.

# RABBI PAUL KERBEL TO LEAD NEW JERSEY CONSERVATIVE RABBIS

## The Rabbinical Assembly New Jersey Region

The New Jersey Region of the Rabbinical Assembly, the organization of Conservative/Masorti Rabbis of the Conservative Movement of Judaism, has tapped Rabbi Paul Kerbel, Rabbi of Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim of Cranford to lead the New Jersey Region for the next two years. Rabbi Kerbel will be joined by Cecilia Beyer of Bridgewater as Vice-President and Matthew Nover of East Windsor as Secretary/Treasurer. Rabbi Jay Kornsgold, the International President of the Rabbinical Assembly and Rabbi of Beth El Synagogue, East Windsor, installed Rabbi Kerbel. Rabbi Sheryl Katzman, Chief Engagement Officer of the Rabbinical Assembly, shared a meaningful Torah



Courtesy Photo

(above, l-r) Rabbi Sheryl Katzman, Chief Engagement Officer, The Rabbinical Assembly

Study on the Torah portion of the week and our love for Israel at this difficult time.

In his Installation remarks, Rabbi Kornsgold, noted Rabbi Kerbel’s many contributions to The Rabbinical Assembly over his forty years in the Rabbinate serving on the national body’s Convention and Derech Eretz Committees and his appointment to the Social Justice Commission, currently serving on its Food Insecurity Sub-committee. “Rabbi Kerbel provides wise counsel to the Rabbinical Assembly with valuable advice and suggestions on how the Rabbinical Assembly can serve its rabbis and congregations and brief its members on many of the issues of the day.”

In addition, Rabbi Kerbel serves on the Israel Allocations Committee of the Jewish Federation of MetroWest, NJ and as Chair of the newly formed Rabbinic Advisory Council of the New York/New Jersey Region of the Anti-Defamation League. Rabbi Kerbel works very closely with the clergy of Union County where the Conservative and Reform communities sponsor an annual Shabbat in the Park at the JCC of Central New Jersey (this year on July 25th) and its annual joint Selichot Service ushering in the High Holy Days (this year on September 13th).

Rabbi Kerbel succeeds Rabbi Esther Reed, the Chief Experience Officer of Rutgers Hillel. Under Rabbi Reed’s leadership, the Region emerged from the pandemic to return to several in-person meetings: at Rutgers Hillel to discuss the rise of antisemitism and anti-Israel activity on the college campus and how to respond to it,

gathered for two-da two-day study kallah with Rutgers University Jewish studies Professor Azzan Yadin-Israel and hosted a summer picnic at White Meadow Lake for the region’s rabbis. Rabbi Reed and Rabbi Kerbel hosted a High Holy Day seminar for colleagues to discuss themes of sermons for the High Holy Days and how to navigate the many issues relating to the aftermath of October 7th in our rabbinic messages. In addition, the Region sponsors an Institute for Conversion and Outreach Education course both in-person and virtually in Northern and Central New Jersey. During her tenure, 29 students completed the course taught by area Conservative Rabbis.

Having served as a Vice-President of the Washington, D.C. Board of Rabbis and as President of the Atlanta Rabbinic Association, Rabbi Kerbel’s mission has always focused on “bringing rabbis together for study and professional development and to work together to meet the spiritual, educational and cultural life-cycle needs of the Jewish communities we serve and to strengthen ‘rabbinic voice’ in the larger Jewish community. Our careers are devoted to serving our congregations, organizations and communities. Who do the Rabbis turn to for strength, support and to help interpret the urgent issues facing the Jewish people today? That is why I believe that strong Rabbinic fellowship and sharing is so important.”

The end of the year dinner and installation on Thursday June 26 was hosted by Congregation Beth Sholom in Teaneck.

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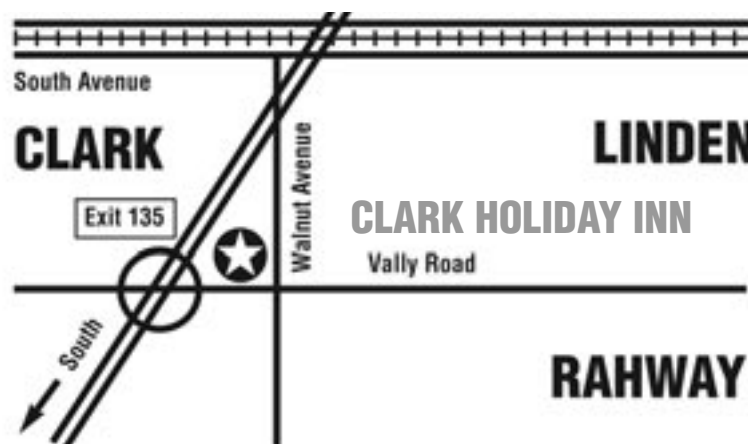
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- Gold Pendants
- Gold Charms
- Gold Watches

### BUYING ALL COINS

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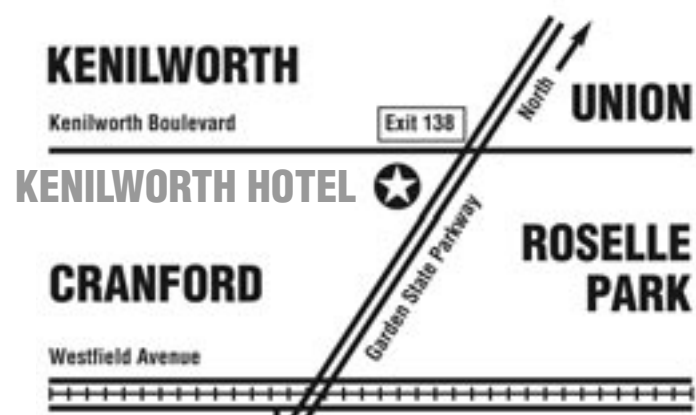
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# GIRL SCOUTS HEART OF NJ 5K AT ORANGE RESERVOIR - SEPT 21ST





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Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade



Youth Fellowship 6<sup>th</sup> grade & up  
11:30am-12:30pm

**PLAN AHEAD AND PLAN YOUR  
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[www.firstprescranford.org/new-here](http://www.firstprescranford.org/new-here)

On Sunday, September 21, Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey (GSHNJ) will host its annual “I Run for Girls 5K Run/Walk” at a brand-new location: the scenic Orange Reservoir in West Orange. The event kicks off at 9:00 AM, with check-in beginning at 8:00 AM.

This USATF-sanctioned race is open to runners and walkers of all ages and abilities—including families with strollers and individuals using wheelchairs. Participants will enjoy a vibrant morning of community, fun, and purpose, with proceeds supporting Girl Scout programs that help girls explore new interests, gain real-world skills, and build lasting friendships.

All registrants will receive a custom event T-shirt and medal. Awards will be given to the top three finishers in each USATF age category.

Proceeds from the race help fund Girl Scout programs that spark curiosity, build confidence, and foster leadership in more than 13,000 youth from kindergarten through 12th grade. Girl Scout troops from across the region will also be on hand to help bring energy and spirit to the day.

“Whether you’re racing or strolling, you’re helping create life-changing opportunities for young people,” said Natasha Hemmings, CEO of GSHNJ.

To register, donate, or start a fundraising team, visit [www.gshnj.org/irunforgirls](http://www.gshnj.org/irunforgirls).

**ABOUT GIRL SCOUTS HEART OF NEW JERSEY**

Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey (GSHNJ) believes in the power of every girl. Our leadership program is designed to help girls discover who they are, what they can do, and

connect with a powerful community of girls and mentors to make it happen. With unique opportunities, Girl Scouts explore, learn, succeed, and take action to make a difference in their community. Providing over 13,000 girls from kindergarten through 12th grade access to leadership programs and mentors throughout Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Somerset, Union, southern Warren, and parts of Middlesex counties, GSHNJ offers girls a chance to practice a lifetime of leadership. GSHNJ operates two service centers located in North Branch and Westfield and the Girl Scout Leadership Center in Newark as well as three camp locations: Camp Hoover in Middleville, N.J., Camp DeWitt in Hillsborough, N.J., and The OVAL in Maplewood, N.J. To volunteer, reconnect, donate, or join, please visit [www.gshnj.org](http://www.gshnj.org).

**Event Details**

- Location: Orange Reservoir, 9 Cherry Lane, West Orange, NJ 07052
- Check-In Opens: 8:00 AM
- Race Starts: 9:00 AM
- Awards: Top three finishers in each USATF age group category
- All registrants receive: T-shirt and medal

Registration Fees	Sept. 1 - 20	Race Day
Adult Runners (18+)	\$50	\$60
USATF Members	\$45	\$55
Adult Walkers (18+)	\$45	\$50
Youth (under 18)	\$25	\$25

- running or walking

**Register/donate: [gshnj.org/irunforgirls](http://gshnj.org/irunforgirls)**



**Celebrating 100 Years Of God's Grace 1925-2025**

Redeemer Lutheran Church  
229 Cowperthwaite Place Westfield, NJ 07090

**Centennial Year Fundraiser Information**

Redeemer Lutheran Church is honoring its centennial by supporting the



**Westfield Volunteer  
Rescue Squad**

A 100% volunteer-run organization that depends on donations to provide lifesaving care. As Christians, we are called to look after our neighbors, join us in showing love and support to those who serve our community in times of crisis.

**Here's How You Can Support This Milestone Fundraiser:**

- **By Mail:** Send a check made payable to **Redeemer Lutheran Church**, with **"Westfield Rescue Squad"** written in the memo line.



Mail to:  
Redeemer Lutheran Church  
229 Cowperthwaite Place  
Westfield, NJ 07090

**Online:** Scan the QR code to donate directly through the Rescue Squad's Square link.

For more detailed information about the rescue squad and their specific needs, please visit our website at [www.redeemerwestfield.com](http://www.redeemerwestfield.com).

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**I RUN FOR  
GIRLS 5K**



**SUN, SEPT. 21, 2025 • 9AM  
ORANGE RESERVOIR, WEST ORANGE**

*All proceeds go to support GSHNJ programs that serve more than 13,000 youth members from kindergarten through 12th grade.*

**RUN WALK**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:**  
[www.gshnj.org/irunforgirls](http://www.gshnj.org/irunforgirls)

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### \$350 OFF ANY ROOF REPAIR of \$1,000 or more

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### \$400 OFF ANY FOUNDATION JOB of \$2,000 or more

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## CANOE RACE WINNERS

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department is pleased to announce the winners of the 2025 July 4th Canoe Races:

**10 – 13 YEARS OLD:**

1st Place: Max Ayala & Frank Maietta

2nd Place: Matteo Cusimano  
& Myles Woodruff

3rd Place: Luke Mooney & Will Jackson

**14 – 20 YEARS OLD:**

1st Place: Mike Scotti & Rob Gable

2nd Place: Aiden Crane

3rd Place: Gabe Lisci & Akki Garg

**21 YEARS AND OLDER:**

1st Place: Kelly Loughney & Kevin Mahoney

2nd Place: Charles Kellett & Mike Raskys

3rd Place: Jack Carroll & Jack Buontempo

**MOTHER & CHILD:**

1st Place: Karen & Myles Woodruff

2nd Place: Colleen McGovern  
& Caitlin Anderson

3rd Place: Caitlyn & Madelyn Loughney

**FATHER & CHILD:**

1st Place: Chris & Max Slayton

2nd Place: Mike & Caitlin Anderson

3rd Place: Kelly & Madelyn Loughney

**MA & PA:**

1st Place: Katherine & Billy Pelligrino

2nd Place: Chris & Kristen Slayton

3rd Place: Kelly & Caitlin Loughney

**MARATHON 18 AND OVER**

1st Place: Riley Stephenson, Karina Gallagher  
& Logan Murray

**MARATHON 18 AND OVER**

1st Place: Louis Bock, Paul Buonaguro  
& Paul Starkey

2nd Place: Ryan McMahon, Chris Drechsel,  
& Tom DeVito

3rd Place: Rob Falco, Collette Curry  
& Kristen Lorentzen

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## OFFICER NICOLETTE TUFANO RECEIVES “TOP COP” AWARD FROM MADD

### Cranford Police Department

Cranford Police Officer Nicolette Tufano was recently recognized for her outstanding work in impaired driving enforcement. Officer Tufano was awarded the 2024 “Top Cop” award by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) in recognition of her continued efforts in detecting and arresting drunk and impaired drivers. MADD presents one “Top Cop” award per county.

Officer Tufano earned the award after leading all Union County police officers with 11 impaired driving arrests. A two-year veteran of the Cranford Police Department, she is currently assigned to the Patrol Division. In total, the Cranford Police Department reported 60 impaired driving arrests in 2024. “Every day, about 37 people in the United States die in drunk driving crashes — that’s one person every 39 minutes,” according to MADD.

Cranford Police Chief Matthew Nazzaro stated, “The Cranford Police Department continuously strives to improve vehicle and pedestrian safety by removing impaired drivers from our roadways. This is a small note of gratitude for the efforts that all of our officers put forth each day to make our community safer.”

Each year, MADD honors law enforcement officers for the number of impaired driving arrests made, along with recognizing other law enforcement professionals and MADD volunteers for their life-saving efforts. Every impaired driver removed from the road represents a potential life saved.

MADD’s core mission is to end drunk and drugged driving, support the victims of these

violent crimes, and prevent underage drinking and drug use. The organization pursues these goals through a multi-pronged approach that includes advocating for stronger laws, promoting anti-impaired driving technology, leading prevention efforts, and providing support services to victims and survivors.



(above) Officer Tufano received the “Top Cop” award at the 2025 MADD New Jersey Law Enforcement Recognition Awards Reception, held on June 13, 2025, in New Brunswick

Courtesy Photo



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Sales Associate



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- Note areas that are cracking, breaking, and curling.

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# FRIENDS OF THE CRANFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK SALE

Monday, August 11th, 1 pm – 8 pm  
Tuesday, August 12th, 10 am – 8 pm  
Wednesday, August 13th, 10 am – 4 pm\*  
\*Bag Day\*

The Friends of the Cranford Public Library invite you to visit their used book sale in August. As construction of the addition to the Cranford Public Library has kept the Friends from having book sales in the Friendly Book Cellar, the Friends will hold a pop-up book sale in the Cranford Community Center on August 11-13. August 13th is Bag Day. Registration will not be necessary for this sale. Most adult hardcover books are \$2.00 and paperback books are \$1.00. Most children's books are 25 cents or 50 cents. On Bag Day, fill up a bag provided by the friends for only \$8. Cash or checks are the only forms of payment accepted. All funds raised go towards free community library programs for all ages. We cannot wait to see you there.

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**Summer Reading Challenge**  
June 16 through August 18  
The Summer Reading Challenge is a recreational literacy program for community members of all ages. The library has options for children, teens, and adults. This free program is available to the community thanks to support from the Friends of the Library. Anyone with a valid Cranford Public Library card is welcome to participate. Please visit our website for more information and to find the link to log books online and enter the raffles.

**1:1 Senior Tech Help Appointments**  
Tuesdays starting at 1pm  
Have questions about your smartphone, tablet, or other device? Register for a 15 or 30-minute tech help appointment with a librarian. Register online or contact the library. Appointments are weekly on Tuesdays from 1-2:30pm at the Cranford Community Center. This program is co-sponsored by the Cranford Public Library and the Cranford Community Center.

**Create in Community crafting group**  
Friday mornings 10:00 – 12:00  
Working on an amazing afghan, cozy cardigan, or joyful junk journal? Want to see what other crafters in the community are doing and maybe get some tips and inspiration along the way? Join the new drop-in 'Create in Community' group at the Cranford Public Library on Friday mornings from 10:00-12:00. Don't have a craft of your own? We will have coloring pages and colored pencils available so that you can keep your hands busy while you build community here at the library.

**Romance Readers Book Club**  
Monday, August 4, at 7pm  
Join us for our Romance Readers Book Club. Please keep an eye on our website for the book title. If you don't want to read that book, or for some reason can't find a copy, feel free to come anyway to discuss whichever romance you've recently read.

**Lit Cafe**  
Friday, August 8, at 10:15am  
Literary Café is a book chat program. The format is simple: Bring a few of your recent favorite books and tell the other members of the group what you like about them. There is no required reading, and you will have the opportunity to learn about books recommended by other group members. Admission is free and all are welcome. Light refreshments provided by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. Attend in person or on Zoom (contact library for link). Lit Cafe will meet Fridays in the Summer and return to Saturdays in the Fall.

**Wednesday Morning Adult Craft**  
Wednesday, August 20, at 10am  
Join us for crafts! Visit our website to register and for more information about this month's craft. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.

**Adults Create**  
Tuesday, August 12, at 7pm  
Join us the second Tuesday of the month for crafts! All supplies will be provided! Space is limited; please visit our website to register and for more information about this month's craft. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.

**Books and Brew Book Club**  
Monday, August 18, at 2pm & 7pm  
(at The Morning Roast)  
Join us for our monthly Books and Brew book club at The Morning Roast! This month's book is Campus on Fire by Patrick O'Dowd. The Morning Roast offers coffee and non-alcoholic beverages available for purchase. Registration is required due to space and can be done through the Library website.



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## AREA ELKS SUPPORT OUR VETERANS

### NJ Elks East Central District

On May 31, the NJ Elks East Central District hosted a BBQ luncheon at their Mountainside Lodge for residents of the Lyons VA Medical Center. Attendees feasted on fresh grilled food, sandwiches, salads, and deserts. And the weather was perfect to enjoy the lodge's outdoor amenities.

On June 13, Elks members from Rahway Lodge treated residents of the Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home to a delicious catered lunch from White Castle. They then tended the raised garden beds of flowers, fruits, vegetables, and herbs that they had helped to plant in May.

On June 20, the NJ Elks East Central District held a Cigar and Bunco fundraiser at their Stirling Lodge for members and invited guests to benefit the Veterans Service Committee. Participants enjoyed a wonderful evening of food, entertainment, premium cigars, prizes,

and a tricky tray raffle. All proceeds will directly support local veterans and veterans causes, including the Elks Veterans Annex which provides hundreds of backpacks to homeless veterans each year and delivers Welcome Home Kits to formerly homeless veterans across the state.

Elks pledge that as long as there are veterans,

they will never forget them. Thousands of Elks volunteers across the country give generously of their time, energy, and resources to serve veterans and military members in their communities each day to ensure that pledge is not an idle one. You can visit the [elks.org](http://elks.org) website to learn more about the many causes that Elks support and how to join.



(above) Elks give back to help local veterans.

Courtesy Photo

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## ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE TRAINING BEGINS IN SEPT

### CASA of Passaic and Union Counties

At just nine years old, Jayden has endured years of neglect due to his parents' substance use and mental health challenges. After they lost their apartment, the family began living in their car in various parking lots, and Jayden often went without food or basic care. Before things reached that point, Jayden had been enrolled in school and enjoyed it. Math was his favorite subject and he loved weekly math club and seeing friends. One night, police were called after Jayden was found alone and barefoot at a gas station. He was removed from his parents and is now living in foster care. A judge assigned a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer to Jayden — and now he has someone who listens, shows up, and stands up for him.

Jayden is one of more than 500 children removed from home in Union and Passaic counties due to abuse and neglect. Living in foster care and separated from all they've known, each child needs a caring, consistent adult in their corner to protect their best interests while in care. Is that you?

Fall training to become a CASA volunteer starts mid-September and will be held at the Linden Library. The first step is to attend an information session. Register now at [casapassaicunion.org/info-session](http://casapassaicunion.org/info-session) for one of the following: Friday, August 1 and Wednesday, August 6, both at 12 pm at the Child Focus office in Elizabeth, 1143 East Jersey Street, 2nd Floor;

Wednesday, August 6 at 5:30 pm at the Linden Library; Monday, August 11 at 5:30 pm, Rahway Library; Wednesday, August 13 at 12 pm at the Child Focus office in Elizabeth, 1143 East Jersey Street, 2nd Floor; Wednesday, August 13 at 5:30 pm at the Plainfield Library; Monday, August 18 at 12 pm at the Child Focus office in Elizabeth, 1143 East Jersey Street, 2nd Floor; Monday, August 18 at 5:30 pm at the Colleen Fraser Building in Westfield; and Wednesday, August 20 at 5 pm, Mountainside Library.

CASA volunteers are trained advocates who visit the child monthly and have court-ordered access to all parties in the case. Supported by CASA staff, advocates make fact-based observations about outstanding needs or concerns and make recommendations to the court. The CASA volunteer is often the only consistent person in the child's life. Applicants must be at least 21, be able to communicate effectively both orally and in writing, have computer skills, pass a background check, and complete the 36-hour training. View the training dates at [casapassaicunion.org/casa-training](http://casapassaicunion.org/casa-training).

CASA of Passaic and Union Counties is a program of Child Focus, which prioritizes the needs and well-being of infants, children, and teens impacted by, or at risk of, abuse or neglect. For details about CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, call 973-832-4002, email [info@casapassaicunion.org](mailto:info@casapassaicunion.org), or log on to [casapassaicunion.org](http://casapassaicunion.org).

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**August 14th:** The Mission in the Rain Band

**August 21st:** The Genesee Stills Band

**August 28th:** Burnside Manor



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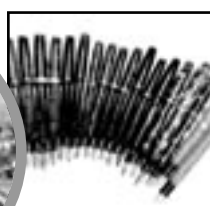
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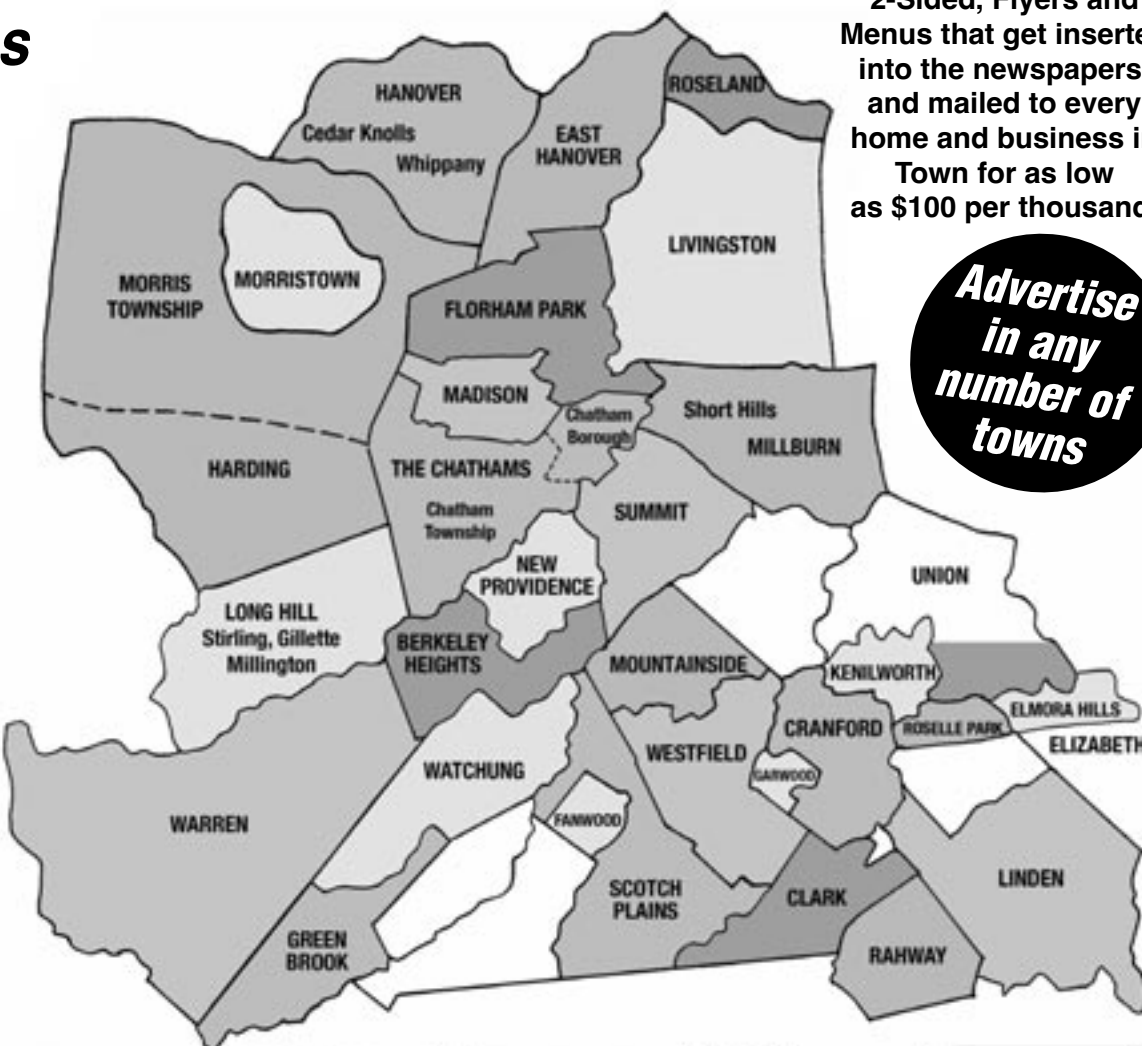
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Units (wide x High)	Size	TOWN	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS
1 Unit (Business card)	3.25"x2"0	100	260	360	460	560	600	660	700	800	900	1000
2 Units	6.5"x2" or 3.25"x4"	150	360	560	600	700	800	900	1000	1100	1200	1300
4 Units	3.25"x8" or 6.5"x4"	240	560	900	1000	1300	1600	1700	1800	1900	2000	2100
6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF PAGE	6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
12 Units	6.5"x14"	400	960	1400	1800	2100	2400	2700	3000	3300	3600	3900
18 FULL PAGE	10"x14"	500	1200	1800	2200	2500	2800	3000	3300	3600	3900	4300
2-PAGE SPREAD	(2) 10"x14"	800										
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## LANDSCAPE WITH BIRDS IN MIND

### *The Raptor Trust*

How many Eastern Screech Owls do we currently have at The Raptor Trust? Apparently ALL of them! Most of these owlets were displaced after the trees that held their nests were cut down.

Cutting down trees and landscaping - especially during nesting season - can destroy active nests, scare off parents, and even injure adult birds during a critical time.

Most birds nest between March and August. Even small projects - like pruning shrubs or pulling out vines - can have a devastating result on a nest.

Here's how you can help:

- Delay major trimming until fall
- Check for nests before cutting or clearing
- Leave a few brush piles
  - birds and critters love them
- Avoid pesticides and non-native plants

These small steps can make all the difference for birds trying to raise their families nearby—or young birds in the first days of their lives.

The Raptor Trust is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization which provides free medical care to thousands of orphaned or injured birds each year. Our infirmary staff is available seven days a week during daylight hours to admit injured birds, but we must rely on the people who find them to bring them to us for care.

If you find a bird that needs help, please visit our website [theraptortrust.org](http://theraptortrust.org) for instructions. We cannot do what we do without the kindness of many – including our visitors!



### NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AUGUST 5TH

6PM - 9PM

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
#6226 CRANFORD COUNCIL

## GOLF 2025

### ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

The Cranford Knights of Columbus will be holding the Annual Golf Outing at Galloping Hill Golf Course. The cost is \$175.00 per Golfer, which includes Golf, Golf Cart, Lunch, & Dinner. Lunch will begin at 11:30 AM, with a shotgun start at 1:00 PM. Dinner is immediately to follow at the Cranford VFW Post 335, 479 South Avenue East. The Golf Outing proceeds will benefit all of the Council's supported Charities, including the Madd Ox Foundation and VFW Post 335.



<https://www.maddox-foundation.org/>



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.  
<https://vfw335.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp>



#### Date & Place

SEPTEMBER, 19<sup>TH</sup> 2025

Galloping Hill Golf Course  
Kenilworth, NJ

#### Schedule

11:30 Lunch  
12:15 Check-In  
1:00 Shotgun  
To follow Dinner

#### To register contact:

Jerry Conheaney 908-416-3464  
John McKeary 908-603-9936



[jerryconheaney@gmail.com](mailto:jerryconheaney@gmail.com)  
[jmckeary@verizon.net](mailto:jmckeary@verizon.net)

## Golf & Sponsorship Registration

Sponsor Registration & Payment is due no later than September 5, 2025

For sponsorship or registration inquiries, please contact one of the following:

John Doolan 908-451-8947 - [jdoolan@verizon.net](mailto:jdoolan@verizon.net)  
Joe Starkey 908-489-0575 - [starkey3016@aol.com](mailto:starkey3016@aol.com)  
Rich Leahey 908-720-6559 - [rleahey@aol.com](mailto:rleahey@aol.com)  
Rich Pierce 908-335-5037 - [rpierce66@aol.com](mailto:rpierce66@aol.com)



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Lunch Sponsor	\$1,500	Includes a Foursome/Signage
Beverage Cart	\$1,500	Includes a Foursome/Signage
Driving Range Sponsor	\$300	Includes Signage
Putting Green Sponsor	\$300	Includes Signage
Hole Sponsor	\$125	Includes Signage
Foursome	\$700	
Single Golfer	\$175	
Dinner Guest Only	\$35	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number & Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of each golfer: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment is enclosed for: ☐ Venmo Payments: #KofC6226

☐ Day of Golf (\$175)

☐ Foursome (\$700)

☐ I would like to purchase the \_\_\_\_\_ sponsorship for \$\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Dinner Guest Only (\$35)

Checks should be made payable to Knights of Columbus 6226  
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