

CRANFORD MONTHLY_{NJ}

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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2025

National Night Out, a national community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships, was held on Tuesday, August 5th in Cranford. The free event was hosted by the Cranford Police Department and featured giveaways, food, drinks, and entertainment. Members of the Police Department, along with community partners, were on hand to interact with the community. National Night Out

culminates annually on the first Tuesday in August. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances. For more information visit natw.org.

Photos by Cranford Police



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14TH ANNUAL RUBBER DUCKY DERBY

Hanson Park Conservancy’s 14th Annual Rubber Ducky Derby is scheduled for Sunday, October 5, 2025, at 4:00 pm. The Race is held at Sperry Park in Cranford, NJ. The rain date is Sunday October 12, 2025.

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 \$250.00 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 am and 2 pm. 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!



14th ANNUAL RUBBER DUCKY RACE
HOSTED BY HANSON PARK CONSERVANCY AND THE CRANFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



ADOPT YOUR DUCKY AT THE CRANFORD CANOE CLUB
*****NO-ADJUST AT PERIWINKLE'S TIME GIVE*****

RACE DATE: Sunday, October 5, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.
After Cranford Street Fair

LOCATION: Rahway River – Ducks will be launched along the riverbank at Sperry Park (Riverside & North Union Avenue)

\$5 per duck OR flock of five ducks for \$20

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THE SHARK IS BROKEN AT CDC THEATRE IN OCTOBER

It has been fifty years since Jaws became a summer blockbuster and now you can dive back into the waters surrounding Amity Island with The Shark Is Broken, a behind the scenes comedy about the making of a classic.

Few films have cast a shadow as long or as deep over the cinematic landscape as Jaws. Released in 1975 and directed by a 27-year-old Steven Spielberg, the movie is widely hailed as the first true summer blockbuster. Jaws was adapted from Peter Benchley’s 1974 novel of the

same name, which quickly became a bestseller. Producers Richard Zanuck and David Brown purchased the film rights before the book was even published, sensing its cinematic potential. They took a gamble by hiring Spielberg, who had previously directed only one theatrical film (The Sugarland Express), but whose TV thriller Duel had demonstrated a knack for tension and suspense.

The blend of suspense, horror, and adventure in Jaws captivated audiences and transformed the way movies were made, marketed, and even watched. The film’s story of a seaside community terrorized by a rogue great white shark is now etched into the DNA of pop culture—its iconic score, menacing antagonist, and unforgettable lines are recognized the world over. But the story behind the making of Jaws is nearly as legendary as the film itself and has gone down in film history as one of Hollywood’s most harrowing shoots.

Filming took place on location on Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts, from May to October 1974. Spielberg insisted on shooting at sea to capture realism, but this choice brought logistical nightmares. The mechanical shark nicknamed “Bruce,” malfunctioned so frequently that the crew had to work around it, often implying the shark’s presence rather than showing it. This heightened the suspense and forced Spielberg to rely on sound, suggestion, and clever editing. Rough weather routinely delayed filming,

causing tempers to fray and the schedule to spiral out of control. Budget overruns caused the original \$4 million budget to balloon to almost \$9 million by the time filming ended. Despite ,or because of, these challenges, Spielberg and his team persisted, capturing moments of genuine tension, humor, and camaraderie that give the film its enduring vitality.

Set adrift on the Atlantic in 1974, The Shark Is Broken plunges audiences into the hilarious and chaotic backstage world of the filming of Jaws. The play unfolds aboard the cramped, weather-beaten boat where the lead actors, theatre veteran Robert Shaw and young Hollywood hotshots Richard Dreyfuss and Roy Scheider, are entirely at the mercy of foul weather and their faulty mechanical co-star. As tempers simmer and egos collide, secrets are spilled and the boundaries between fiction and reality blur revealing the real drama lurking beneath the surface. With sharp wit and affectionate satire, The Shark Is Broken offers a rare glimpse into the stormy process behind Hollywood’s original modern summer blockbuster.

The Shark Is Broken will be presented at CDC Theatre, 78 Winans Ave. in Cranford, NJ on Fridays and Saturdays October 10,11,17 and 18 at 8 p.m., with matinees on Sunday October 12 and 19 at 2 p.m. Tickets and additional information can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org.

THE SHARK IS BROKEN

By **Ian Shaw & Joseph Nixon**

BROADWAY'S HILARIOUS BEHIND-THE-SCENES COMEDY ABOUT THE MAKING OF **JAWS**

Oct. 10,11,17,18 8pm
Oct. 12,19 2pm

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9/11 MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Township of Cranford will hold its annual 9/11 Memorial Service on Wednesday, September 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cranford 9/11 Memorial Park, located at the corner of North Union and Springfield Avenues.

The solemn event, organized by the Cranford 9/11 Committee in partnership with the Cranford Clergy Council, will bring together local officials, first responders, veterans, and residents to honor the memory of those lost on September 11, 2001 — including six Cranford residents who perished in the attacks.

Participating groups will include the Cranford Veterans of Foreign Wars, Cranford Police Department, Cranford Fire Department, Cranford First Aid Squad, Cranford Township officials, and members of the Cranford Clergy. The ceremony will feature musical selections by the Cranford High School Madrigal Choir and the Union County Police and Fire Pipe and Drum Corp, adding a reflective and powerful musical tribute.

A candle lighting ceremony will honor the lives of Cranford residents Dean P. Eberling, Christopher M. Grady, Robert H. Lynch, Jr., Gregory Milanowycz, Thomas M. Regan, and Leonard J. Snyder, Jr., whose names are permanently etched into the fabric of the Cranford community and memorial site.

In the event of inclement weather, the service will be held indoors at the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, located directly across the street from the park.

Cranford residents are encouraged to attend the service to reflect, remember, and stand together

STUDENT AUDITIONS FOR THE GREAT GATSBY - MEETING SEPT 3

Cranford High School Performing Arts Department is proud to present The Great Gatsby, written by F. Scott Fitzgerald and adapted for the stage by Simon Levy. Performances will be held on November 14 & 15 in the CHS Auditorium. Auditions will be held on September 4 & 5. All students interested in auditioning or being a part of the stage crew should attend an interest meeting on Wednesday, September 3 at 3 p.m. in the CHS Auditorium. If you have additional questions, please contact Elizabeth Adams adams@cranfordschools.org.

We look forward to your Cranford child's participation in this production!

FLORAPHILE GARDEN CLUB OPEN INVITE

Floraphile Garden Club of Cranford

Love to garden or interested in learning how? The Floraphile Garden Club of Cranford is looking for new members. Founded in 1950, the club recently celebrated 75 years of being an active and integral part of the Cranford community. We welcome members of all ages and gardening abilities. An important aspect of the club is our dedication to community service. Members participate in the yearly clean-up and beautification of Girl Scout Park, Orange Ave. Pool, the Cranford Community Center, and the Cranford First Aid Squad. The Floraphiles have also offered therapeutic horticulture programs at the Atria of Cranford and host garden workshops for seniors through Cranford's Recreation & Parks Department. Members participate in children's workshops at local schools, teaching gardening skills and the importance of conservation. The club also participates in many fundraisers, like our yearly Pecan Sale in the fall, and donates proceeds to many amazing, local organizations such as Cranford Family Care, the Cranford Historical Society, Friends of Great Swamp, etc.

The Floraphiles host monthly meetings and have enjoyed many programs on garden-related topics. We have learned about hydrangeas from the Garden Coach, Marc Zukovich, herbs from Master Gardener, Caren White and enjoyed a presentation on native plants by the Environmental Educator, Virginia Lamb. We



The Floraphile Garden Club of Cranford is looking for new members! We have monthly meetings, enjoy wonderful speakers, participate in hands-on workshops, tour beautiful gardens and perform lots of community service! For more information, please contact Linda Moore at lmoore106@aol.com.

have learned about rose gardening, enjoyed fall container planting and marveled at the magic of the hummingbird. In the spring, members take tours of various gardens around the state, like the Van Vleck Gardens in Montclair, Greenwood Gardens in Short Hills or the NJ Botanical Gardens at Skylands. The club also participates in many exciting, hands-on workshops. We have learned to make boxwood topiaries, decorate wreaths and make beautiful stained glass and cement stepping stones for our gardens. Some of these stepping stones were even donated to the Cranford First Aid Squad.

If any of this sounds interesting to you, feel free to reach out to our Membership Chair, Linda Moore at lmoore106@aol.com for more information. And please follow us on Facebook and Instagram to take a peek at all of our fun activities. Happy Gardening!

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TOWN-WIDE GARAGE SALE - SEPT 30

Project Home of Cranford is excited to announce its Fall 2025 Town-Wide Garage Sale, scheduled for Saturday, October 4, 2025, with a rain date of Sunday, October 5.

Residents who register to participate will have their address and a brief description of items for sale included in the official garage sale listing. This listing will be shared on the Project Home website and Facebook page, helping shoppers easily locate participating sales throughout the town.

Online registration is required and will remain open through Tuesday, September 30. To register, visit the Project Home of Cranford website at projecthomeofcranford.org, and click on the Fundraisers tab.

The full list of participating addresses and sale highlights will be published the evening of Friday, October 3.

This event is more than just a community-wide shopping opportunity—it's a vital fundraiser. Proceeds support Project Home of Cranford's mission to assist local families facing unexpected financial hardship. For over 30 years, Project Home, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit, has partnered with Cranford Family Care to help keep families in crisis in their homes.

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ANNUAL GREEK FESTIVAL CELEBRATES CULTURE, CUISINE, AND COMMUNITY IN UNION

Get ready to immerse yourself in the vibrant sights, sounds, and flavors of Greece at the 48th Annual Greek Festival, taking

place at the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Union, NJ. This eagerly anticipated event, the largest and longest-running Greek Festival in Union County, will delight attendees from September 4th to September 7th, 2025, with a weekend of cultural immersion, culinary delights, and family-friendly entertainment.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- **Authentic Greek Cuisine:** Indulge in a feast of traditional Greek dishes including souvlaki, moussaka, pastitsio, spanakopita, loukoumades, and baklava, all freshly prepared on premises with the finest ingredients reminiscent of your Greek Yia-yia's cooking.
- **Live Music and Dance:** Experience the lively rhythms of Greece with live music and dance performances featuring traditional Greek folk music and dances such as syrtaki and kalamatiano.
- **Artisan Marketplace:** Browse through a bustling marketplace offering handmade jewelry, clothing, and imported goods from Greece.

EVENT DETAILS:

- **Dates:** September 4th to September 7th, 2025
- **Location:** St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 721 Rahway Ave, Union, NJ 07083 (Free Parking in neighboring lots)
- **Admission:** \$2 general admission; a portion of admission proceeds benefit local Union Township/Union County charities "We are thrilled to invite the community to join us for our 47th Annual Greek Festival," said Betty Spiropoulos, Festival Committee Co-Chair "This event is a celebration of our Greek heritage and a wonderful opportunity for everyone to experience the warmth and hospitality of our culture."

ABOUT THE ST. DEMETRIOS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH:

Established in 1928 in Newark and relocated to Union in 1984, the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church has been a cornerstone of the Union Township community, celebrated for its rich diversity and dedication to promoting Greek culture, faith, and community spirit. Over the years, it has warmly welcomed people from various backgrounds, fostering an inclusive environment that embraces cultural diversity and unity among its members.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates and behind-the-scenes looks at the festival: [@stdemetriosunion](https://www.facebook.com/stdemetriosunion)

Don't miss out on this unforgettable celebration of Greek culture and community! Join us at the 48th Annual Greek Festival in Union, NJ, for a weekend filled with delicious food, vibrant music, and family-friendly fun.

ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

48TH ANNUAL

GREEK FESTIVAL

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SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2025

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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6 12PM-12AM	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7 12PM-7PM

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Movie Night

Wednesday, September 3, at 7pm

Join us the first Wednesday of the month for a screening of a recently released DVD! Please visit our website or contact the library for film titles.

International Film

Monday, September 8, at 12:30pm and 7pm

Join us for an International film screening. The same film will be shown at 12:30pm and 7pm. Please contact the library for the film title. Please note the new start time for the afternoon showing.

Romance Readers Book Club

Monday, September 8, 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.

Adults Create

Tuesday, September 9, 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.

Challah Baking Workshop

Wednesday, September 10, at 7pm

Join us to learn how to bake your very own

challah to take home and bake! All supplies will be provided. Space is limited; please visit our website to register. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.

Lit Cafe

Saturday, September 13, 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.

Photography Presentation

Monday, September 15, at 7pm

Join Cranford resident and photographer Jim Chelland on Monday, September 15, at 7pm for this photography presentation, including pictures of local sights, wildlife, and nature.

Deni Bonet & Chris Flynn Concert

Tuesday, September 16, at 7pm

Deni Bonet and Chris Flynn are a NY/NJ-based Americana, folk-rock duo whose blend of voices, virtuosi violin, guitar and humor have entertained and captivated audiences from Carnegie Hall to the White House. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.

Wednesday Morning Adult Craft

Wednesday, September 17, 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.

Trivia Night

Wednesday, September 17, at 7pm

Join us for another fun evening of trivia! This free event is hosted by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library! Join us in the Community Room on the first floor of the Community Center! Feel free to bring your own

snacks and (non-alcoholic) drinks. Prizes awarded to the winning team. Please visit our website or contact the library to register.

Junk Journaling

Thursday, September 18, at 6:30pm

Join us at our new monthly program to create and add to your very own junk journal! Please visit our website to register and for more information.

Theater Project

Saturday, September 20, at 2pm

The Friends of the Cranford Public Library invite everyone to attend a live theatrical performance! New Jersey's own Theater Project will present a reading of an original short play. The reading will be followed by a question and answer session with the audience, director, playwright and cast. This program has been made possible by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Funds have also been provided by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. No registration needed.

Books and Brew Book Club

*Monday, September 29, 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 The Daughter of Doctor Moreau by Silvia Moreno-Garcia. 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.

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.

COME BACK!



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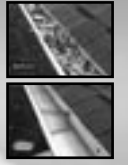
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EARTH, WIND AND FIRE TRIBUTE BAND - OCT 4

The Sieminski Theater continues Act 2 of their 2025 season with an incredible, high-energy tribute to the iconic band, Earth, Wind and Fire on Saturday October 4 at 7:30pm.

The iconic musical group EARTH, WIND & FIRE achieved significant commercial success and critical acclaim, becoming one of the best-selling music artists of all time with over 90 million records sold worldwide. They are also highly regarded for their innovative sound and lasting influence on popular music. They scored eight number-one hits and released over 23 albums, with several reaching double-platinum status. They were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Vocal Group Hall of Fame, and the NAACP Image Award Hall of Fame. They also received nine Grammy Awards, including a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012.

EARTH, WIND AND FIRE

The Earth, Wind and Fire Tribute Band share a great love and appreciation for the style and musicianship of the premier band of the 70's, 80's and 90's! This incredibly talented band is based in Maryland and tours the country as they pay homage to one of the greatest bands of its era, bringing to life the magical R&B, funk and jazz sounds that continue to inspire and influence even the contemporary entertainers of today.

From the funky and “earthy” grooves to the sophisticated and complex lyrics and orchestrations, the Earth, Wind and Fire Tribute Band continues to keep the music alive so that everyone will know the elements... Earth, Wind and Fire, will live forever! They will be performing all the hits including Got To Get You Into My Life, Sing a Song, Shinning Star, Boogie Wonderland, Let's Groove, That's The Way of the World, September, and many more! They will have you on your feet and singing along to all the iconic hits!

Don't miss this opportunity to relive the musical hits of the 70's, 80's and 90's with this incredible tribute.

For tickets visit sieminskitheater.org or call the box office at 908-850-3892

EARTH, WIND & FIRE TRIBUTE BAND

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4th @ 7:30



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SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ ANNOUNCES FOUR THE RECORD - SEPT 13



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- **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

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For more detailed information about the rescue squad and their specific needs, please visit our website at www.redeemerwestfield.com.

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FIRST LESSON FREE

The Salem Roadhouse Café presents Four The Record, with a special opening performance by The Justin Jaworski/Luke Mattessich Guitar Duo on Saturday, September 13, 2025. The doors open at 7:00 p.m., the show starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$20 and includes show, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, and dessert. The venue is located in Bailey Hall at Townley Presbyterian Church, 829 Salem Rd, Union, NJ. The Roadhouse operates as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities.

Opening performers Justin Jaworski/Luke Mattessich Guitar Duo indulge in fresh improvisational takes on jazz standards as well as rock/pop classics.

Like your vocal harmony with a side of music? Oh boy, are you in luck!

In a Roadhouse tradition of “not-quite-unplugged” performers, Four The Record has played to enthusiastic Roadhouse audiences many times as the group formerly named ZPCS. The group nails it with tight harmonies backed up by their light instrumentation — guitar, bass, and an eclectic assortment of rhythm instruments with unfamiliar but exotic names. Hear the words. Savor the lyrics. Enjoy the accompaniment. Sail away on the vocal harmonies. Four The Record focuses on long-time rock and pop favorites, originals, and vocals. Always the vocals. True music lovers will appreciate their musical style in our excellent music “listening room”.

Original artwork by local tile artist Louise Wheeler will be on display at the Roadhouse Fine Arts Gallery. Inspired by quilts and fiber art, Louise assembles and stitches handmade tiles into traditional quilt patterns and motifs, creating 'Clay Quilts' that honor centuries of women's craftsmanship.

Music and art definitely go together, and at the Roadhouse it's a perfect blend with a great atmosphere.

As always, the Salem Roadhouse Café is live, intimate, up front, and personal. All ages are welcome.

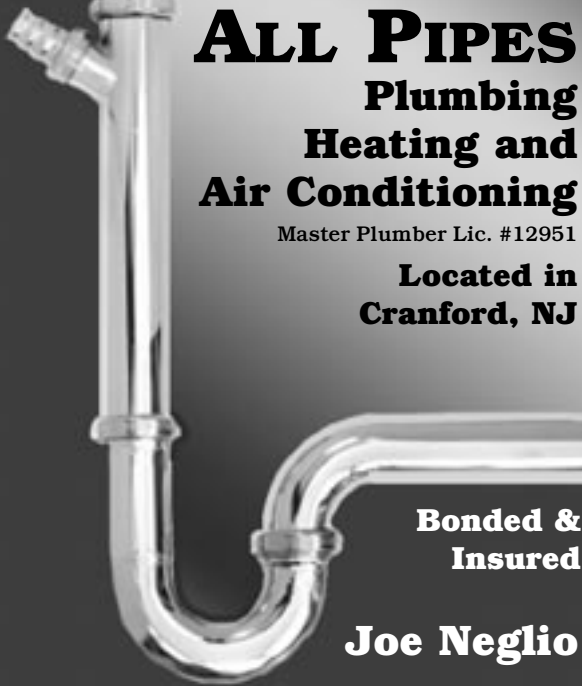
ABOUT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

It's not “church music.” It's music music. Folks who've come to the Salem Roadhouse Café know that it's a clean, safe place for people who enjoy listening to live music — in a world otherwise filled with clubs and bars. The Roadhouse has always offered its stage to local and independent mainstream musicians. Jazz, rock, folk, and other groups have performed. What's the common thread? They're all great musicians playing the kind of music people like to hear. There's no message, just music.

Now in it's 18th year of operation, the Roadhouse started in 2008 by members of Townley Presbyterian Church with a grant from the Presbytery of Elizabeth. Hey — that's why we're located where we are, 829 Salem Rd, Union, NJ. The Roadhouse operates as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. That's its social mission.

But the many musicians who've played the Salem Roadhouse Café see it as a solid performance venue. They love it because of its special intimacy and great audiences. They say people here “really listen.” Ask any of the musicians you meet here — they love to play the Roadhouse, and they want to come back often.

The Salem Roadhouse Café has raised funds for many carefully chosen charities. They include: The Presbytery of Elizabeth E-port Center, Center For Hope Hospice, Community Food Bank, Monarch Housing, Angel Paws Animal Rescue, National MS Society, Haiti Disaster Relief, Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief, The Union County YWCA Domestic Violence Program, Making It Possible To End Homelessness, Camp Johnsonburg, The Music Institute, Groundwork Elizabeth, and others. Many thousands of dollars have been raised for these deserving charities.



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MULTICULTURAL MUSIC FESTIVAL COMES TO ROSELLE PARK

The Multicultural and Heritage Music Festival will bring a wide range of ethnic entertainment to Roselle Park on Saturday, September 27. Presented by the Borough of Roselle Park, Diversity and Inclusion Committee and Greg Johnson Civic Association, the festival will run from noon to 5 pm at Michael Mauri Park on Chestnut Street. It will feature food trucks, a CPR information station, local displays including an exhibit highlighting Roselle Park’s historic railroad system and performers celebrating diverse styles of music from around the world.



(above) Afro Dominicano



(above) Verdict



(above) Pradhanica



(above) Chris Bolger and the Jamesons Gang

FEATURED ENTERTAINMENT AT THE FESTIVAL:
3:45 PM -- Afro Dominicano. Headlining the festival is a Latin fusion band performing what is called AfroCaribbean soul. Its traditional folkloric roots music from the Dominican Republic incorporates Afro beats, reggae, calypso, samba, funk, punk rock and other Caribbean rhythms. In addition to original songs, they include covers such as Bill Withers’ Just the Two of Us and Amy Winehouse’s Valerie. The band, acclaimed worldwide, features vocal, guitar, bass, accordion, drum, conga, guira and tambora.
2:20 PM – Verdict. If you like to dance and love reggae and soca music, Verdict is the band for you. Verdict is fronted by vocalist and keyboardist Roland from Monserrat, whose enthusiasm is infectious as he leads the audience to dance along with him as he plays. Guitarist Raga comes from Trinidad-Tobago and bassist Marcellino from Panama. Johnny Youth is the band leader and drummer. Their story continues as does their unending quest to play the transcendent jam, to create the perfect moment, to revel in shared experience with their fans.

1:00 PM – Pradhanica. A contemporary Kathak dance production, Pradhanica, which means “female leader,” is led by Kathak dancer, choreographer and percussionist Jin Won. Its compositions use Indian rhythms for the African djembe, Spanish cajon, with Indian sitar and tabla. Exploring emotions of anger, joy, compassion and peace, Pradhanica shows the pure rhythmic aspect and emotional resonance of the dance form.
12:00 PM – Chris Bolger and the Jamesons Gang. This North Jersey-based quartet has been bringing Gaelic-flavored rock, folk and ballads to pubs, festivals and other events in New York and New Jersey for many years. In addition to guitar, bass and drums, they incorporate Irish music staples such as the bouzouki, mandolin and banjo to provide a crowd-pleasing mix of traditional and modern tunes.
Another highlight of the festival will be an exhibit showcasing the three railroads that nurtured Roselle Park’s growth into a vibrant community. The Tristate Railway Historical Society is the curator of this display.

ROSELLE PARK MULTICULTURAL AND HERITAGE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 27.2025

Michael Mauri Park on Chestnut Street



4 Hot bands!

3:45 PM - Afro Dominicano
2:20 PM - Verdict
1:00 PM - Pradhanica
12:00 PM - Chris Bolger & Jamesons Gang

Celebrating diverse styles of music from around the world.

Plus: Tristate Railway Historical Society Display

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Season-Opening Concert Features International Talent and Folk-Inspired Melodies

The New Jersey Festival Orchestra raises the curtain on its highly anticipated 2025–2026 season with *The Gypsy Spirit*, a vivid and exhilarating journey through folk traditions reimagined in symphonic splendor. Under the baton of Maestro David Wroe, this electrifying program will be performed on Saturday, September 27 at 7:00 PM at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield and Sunday, September 28 at 2:30 PM at the Sieminski Theater at Fellowship Village in Basking Ridge.

Bringing together rich musical traditions of Eastern and Southern Europe, *The Gypsy Spirit* features works by Janáček, Bruch, and de Falla, performed by NJFO in collaboration with special guests Imperial Brass (Westfield performance only) and internationally acclaimed Armenian violinist Anush Nikoghosyan.

The evening begins with Janáček's *Sinfonietta*, a bold and ceremonial tribute to Czech national pride, featuring dazzling brass fanfares performed with Imperial Brass. This rousing work will be heard only at the Westfield concert.

"Imperial Brass is very excited to be partnering with our Westfield neighbors, the New Jersey Festival Orchestra, in our first collaboration with this exceptional ensemble," reports Imperial Brass. "[We] will be featured on Janáček's inspiring *Sinfonietta*, which opens



with one of the great brass fanfares of the orchestral repertoire. Imperial Brass performs regularly at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield and throughout the state." For more information, please visit imperialbrass.org.

Next, Anush Nikoghosyan brings warmth, fire, and virtuosity to Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1, a romantic masterwork beloved for its soaring melodies and emotional power.

The concert concludes with de Falla's *Three-Cornered Hat Suites Nos. 1 & 2*, an exuberant orchestral portrait bursting with Flamenco rhythm, Andalusian color, and theatrical flair.

"The music in *The Gypsy Spirit* is a perfect marriage between the popular and classical idioms," said NJFO Music Director David Wroe. "I'm also excited to be working with

Imperial Brass; collaborating with the community is an essential part of our mission."

Concertgoers are invited to deepen their experience with a pre-concert lecture by Dr. Yifei Xu, NJFO's Operations Director and renowned pianist, at 6:00 PM in Westfield and 1:30 PM in Basking Ridge.

NJFO NEW JERSEY FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA
MUSIC DIRECTOR DAVID WROE

The Gypsy Spirit

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