

CRANFORD MONTHLY_{NJ}

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THE BAR'S BEEN SET HIGH FOR THE 2025–2026 SEASON

Cranford Cheerleading

The Cranford Cheerleading Program is back and better than ever, with their sights firmly set on a show-stopping 2025–2026 season! From the spirited sidelines of Cougar football games to the high-energy competitive mats across New Jersey, Cranford Cheer is bringing the heat, while continuing to embody the heart, pride, and community spirit of Cranford Township.

With programs spanning from 4th grade through high school, Cranford Cheer provides a comprehensive and inclusive journey for young athletes to develop not only their skills in cheerleading, tumbling, stunting, and dance, but also their confidence, leadership, and character.

Cranford's cheer journey begins in 4th–8th Grade with the Cranford PAL Cheer Organization each fall, creating a passion for cheer in the town's youngest athletes. From there, many continue to grow and compete in the Cranford Middle School Competition Cheer Team, representing the township and competing across the state during the winter season.

At the high school level, Cranford High School Cheer continues to excel with a full lineup of teams: Fall Junior Varsity, Fall Varsity (lighting up those Friday Night Lights!), Winter Spirit (supporting Cougar basketball and wrestling), and the Winter Competition Team, which goes head-to-head with some of the top squads in New Jersey. We'd like to recognize Varsity Captains Emily Curtin, Sophia Lledo, Lexi Pryor, Kylee

Schmidt, Nina Soria, and Brenna Walsh and JV Captains Kelly Rotella and Isabella Stulpin.

Behind every successful program is great leadership. The Cranford Cheer family is guided by their dedicated coaching staff: Alexa Spalliero (Varsity Coach), Emily Fuentes (JV Coach and PAL Director), Melissa Hoffman (Middle School Coach), and Abbey Dwyer (Middle School Coach and PAL Coordinator). These coaches make it a point to do more than teach cheers. They are building strong, compassionate young women that carry these values over into every area of life. These student-athletes are more than just talented cheerleaders. They dedicate countless hours to their teams, balancing demanding practices with academics, part-time jobs, and community service. They represent the best of what youth sports can be.

This August, the Cranford Cheerleading Program proudly brought 49 athletes to Pine Forest Cheer Camp, where they left an unforgettable mark. The Middle School and High School teams came home with an incredible ten trophies

So, Cougar Nation, are you ready? Come support our incredible athletes this season. Bring the noise for Cranford Cheer because they are ready to shine. Follow us on social media for updates, team highlights, and more!

For More Information:

Youth Cheer: cms.cheer1357@gmail.com,

High School Cheer: spalliero@cranfordschools.org

Courtesy photos





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A THRILLING AFTERNOON OF OPERA FIREWORKS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025 AT 2:00 PM

Get ready for sparks to fly when two sopranos meet one tenor! Opera at Florham invites you to Due Soprani e Un Tenore, an exhilarating afternoon of soaring arias, dramatic duets, and fiery trios, staged with wit, rivalry, and romance. Taking place in the elegant Mansion at Fairleigh Dickinson University, this one-of-a-kind concert transforms the timeless magic of opera into an intimate and unforgettable event. Audiences will be swept away by the dazzling interplay of voices as passion, humor, and heartbreak unfold through some of opera’s most beloved music.

WHY YOU CAN’T MISS IT

- Hear world-class voices collide in moments of rivalry, romance, and drama.
- Experience the thrill of live opera in a beautiful, historic setting.
- Perfect for both seasoned opera lovers and first-time attendees!

Reserve your seat now and be part of an afternoon that promises vocal fireworks, theatrical flair, and the kind of energy only live opera can deliver.

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT OPERAATFLORHAM.ORG OR AT THE DOOR:

General Admission: \$30
Students (22 & under): \$10
FDU Students (22 & under): FREE
Follow it up with our next Opera Talk with

Opera Educator Lou Barrella on Sunday, November 16, 2025 at 2:00 pm entitled “The ‘Love Triangle’ Trios of Giuseppe Verdi. George Bernard Shaw said that “Opera is when a Tenor and a Soprano want to make love and are prevented from doing so by a Baritone!” \$10 registration fee for Opera Talks!

The SOPRANI e Un TENORE
When Two Sopranos Meet a Tenor




Sunday, November 9, 2025
2:00 pm
The Mansion at
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Madison, NJ



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American Repertory Ballet (ARB) opens its 2025/26 season at the New Brunswick Performing Arts Center (NBPAC) with the highly anticipated return of Ethan Stiefel and Johan Kobborg's acclaimed adaptation of the classic ballet *Giselle*. Presented Friday, October 10, 2025 through Sunday, October 12, 2025, *Giselle* tells the story of a young woman who dies of a broken heart—only to confront, and eventually forgive, her beloved from beyond the grave.

Originally choreographed in 2012 for the Royal New Zealand Ballet under Stiefel's artistic leadership, Giselle was initially restaged and partially redesigned specifically for ARB at NBPAC in 2022 by the award-winning team of Howard Jones (Scenic Designer), Natalia Stewart (Costume Designer), and Joseph R. Walls (Lighting Designer). Giselle is celebrated as being “[s]uperbly coached, curated, and danced,” says The Ballet Herald’s Nadia Vostrikov. “ARB’s Giselle is everything the original had and more.”

Featuring emotionally powerful and technically stunning performances, this moving production will no doubt get audiences in the Halloween spirit via this haunting tale of love, betrayal, and the supernatural.

- **New Brunswick Performing Art Center**
New Brunswick, NJ

• **Friday, October 10, 2025 at 7:00 PM***

- **Saturday, October 11, 2025**

at 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM

• **Sunday, October 12, 2025 at 2:00 PM****

Tickets for Giselle range from \$42 to \$72, not including additional 4% NBPAC Ticket Fee.

***Post-Show Reception** (\$50 add-on to ticket purchase) with ARB Dancers, artistic leadership, and VIPs immediately following the performance. Light bites and beverages will be served.

****Come to the performance dressed in costume for a festive Halloween season kickoff!**

Tall/wide hats, light up accessories, and weapons will not be permitted.

The New Brunswick Performing Arts Center is located at 11 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

The venue can be reached by car or New Jersey Transit and has ample parking in its attached parking deck.

For more information, contact Grant Jacoby, Director of Marketing, at gjacoby@arballet.org, or by calling 609-921-7758 x34

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A BELOVED ART EVENT MAKES A REMARKABLE RETURN TO THE ARMORY

Westfield will once again will play host to a remarkable art event - one unlike any other in the greater New York metro area.

First launched in 1982 as the Westfield Craft Market, this event enjoyed a 20-year run, earning a reputation for quality and community spirit. Now, producers Richard & Joanna Rothbard - owners of An American Craftsman Galleries in NYC and Great Barrington, MA - return with fresh energy to reintroduce Westfield to a cultural tradition it once embraced.

Sharing the spotlight will be 80 gifted artists and designers including several nationally recognized for their award winning accomplishments; many traveling from across the U.S., from as far as California and Florida. Guests will enjoy work never before seen on the East Coast. The fair could be called a weekend "Off-Broadway production" - with a great cast, many stars, with several booths designed like stage sets.

HALLOWEEN EVE KICKOFF: ALL WEEKEND PASS FOR PARENTS AND KIDS FOR FREE.

The show opens Friday, October 31, with a family-friendly Trick-or-Treat Party. Kids can:

- Collect their treats while meeting the artists
- Create their own art on the famous Art Wall

Join a weekend-long Treasure Hunt. Great prizes made by the artists. And throughout the weekend, visitors can win original art prizes donated by An American Craftsman Gallery.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Westfield Armory is Just 5 minutes from Exit 135 on the Garden State Parkway
- Free parking at the Armory or across the street at the High School.
- \$12 weekend pass covers all three days. SENIORS \$10. Under 10 Free

Show Hours

Trick or Treat party

Friday Oct. 31 - 3 pm-7 pm

Saturday Nov. 1. - 10 am-6 pm

Sunday Nov. 2 - 10 am-5 pm

An incredible selection of ceramics, independent fashion artists, fine woodworking, jewelry, paintings, mixed media, Illustration, photography, and art glass - from \$25 keepsakes to Michael Alexander's \$10,000 masterpieces.

Overall, this will be the art weekend that Westfield and its surrounding communities will celebrate this first year - and for years to come. And please . . . don't forget your credit card.

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FRIDAY
Trick-or-Treat
Meet The Artists
OPENING



JULIO GARCIA

SCHEDULE

Friday, Oct 31: 3PM-7PM
Saturday, Nov 1: 10AM-6PM
Sunday, Nov 2: 10AM-5PM

ADMISSION

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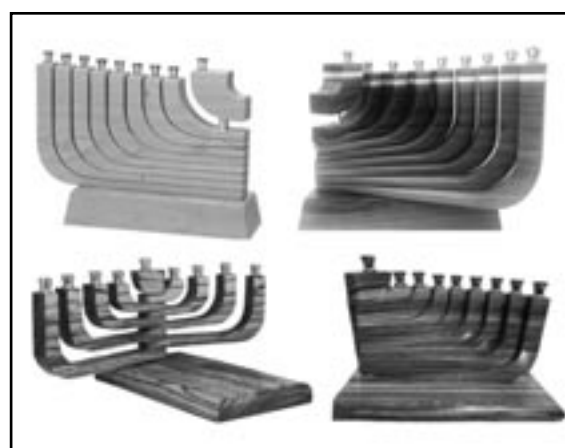
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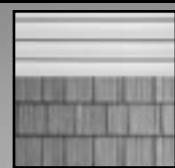
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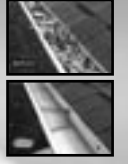
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ST. MICHAEL'S FEAST OCT 2 - OCT 5

The 2025 Feast of Saint Michael in Cranford, NJ, will be held from Thursday, October 2, to Sunday, October 5, 2025, at St. Michael Church, located at 100 Alden Street. The four-day event will feature a carnival atmosphere with rides, games, food, drinks, and live entertainment for all ages, serving as the largest fundraiser for St. Michael School.

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CHS PRODUCTION OF THE GREAT GATSBY

Morality, grand gestures, and corruption: 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. This play tells a classic story exploring wealth, love, and the American dream during the jazz age of the 1920s. Performances will be held on November 14 & 15 in the CHS Auditorium. Tickets will be available at chs.booktix.com beginning on October 17. If you have additional questions, please contact Elizabeth Adams (adams@cranfordschools.org). We look forward to seeing you there!

CRANFORD HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS
THE GREAT GATSBY
WRITTEN BY F. SCOTT FITZGERALD
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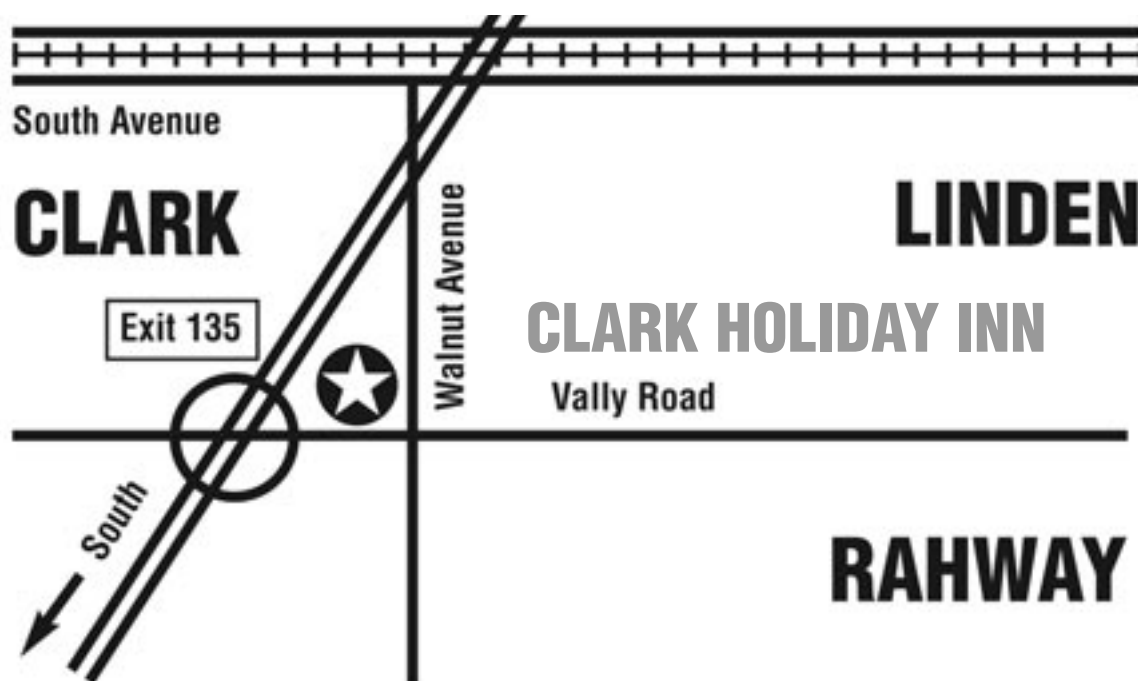
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(above, l-r) Dr. Tyrone Clinton, Jr. as Director of Choirs, Laura Simone, Director of Family Engagement and Communications
Courtesy Photo

HARMONY AND HOSPITALITY FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CRANFORD

Excitement is in the air as First Presbyterian Church of Cranford (FPCC) enters the fall season with two new faces: Dr. Tyrone Clinton, Jr. as Director of Choirs and Laura Simone as full-time Director of Family Engagement and Communications.

Dr. Tyrone Clinton, Jr. earned his Bachelor of Arts from Morehouse College, a Master of Music from Ohio State University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts from Northwestern University. He is the founder of The Unsung Collective Inc., a chamber orchestra and vocal ensemble based in Harlem, NY. A gifted conductor and dedicated educator, Tyrone brings a passion for both musical excellence and spiritual expression to his new role in Cranford. He will be directing the Adult Chancel Choir, the Jubilee Bell Choir, and the Children’s Choir - offering musical opportunities for all ages.

This fall, the music ministry invites singers and ringers of all experience levels to make a joyful noise. Whether you're a seasoned performer or just curious to give it a try, there's a place for you. Adult choir rehearsals begin on September 11, and Children’s Choir kicks off on October 2— come be part of something uplifting and fun!

Laura Simone joins the team as Director of Family Engagement and Communications. A graduate of Syracuse University with a Bachelor of Science, and NYU’s Stern School of Business

with an MBA, Laura brings together a strong Christian faith, a strategic mindset, and a heart for nurturing meaningful connections. With a deep passion for supporting families in their spiritual journeys, Laura is already bringing fresh ideas to help children, teens, and parents build lasting faith foundations and feel more connected to the life of the church.

“After an extensive and prayerful search, I’m incredibly grateful for the gifts that Tyrone and Laura bring to our church family,” said Rev. Jin Bae, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Cranford. “Their passion, creativity, and heart for ministry reflect our calling to be a welcoming space where everyone of all ages can grow in faith, experience God’s love, and find belonging. This is an exciting season for our congregation and our wider community.”

For more information about Tyrone, Laura and upcoming fall activities visit firstprescranford.org.

ABOUT THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CRANFORD

As the body of Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit, the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford (FPCC), 11 Springfield Ave., Cranford, seeks to live God’s Word and inspire others to embrace Jesus’ commandment to love one another as the Lord loves us. Learn more at firstprescranford.org.

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CARING CONTACT CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF LIFESAVING SUPPORT

Caring Contact

On October 11, 2025, Caring Contact proudly celebrated 50 years of unwavering service to individuals in crisis. Since 1975, its mission has remained clear and steadfast: to provide immediate, compassionate, and confidential support to those experiencing emotional distress, mental health challenges, or personal crises.

What began as a small group of volunteers answering calls from the basement of Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains has grown into a vital community resource. Today, more than 100 trained Listeners - both volunteer and paid - offer support and understanding to

thousands of callers every year.

In 2005, Caring Contact became one of the first agencies to respond to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline while continuing to serve its original warmline. When the Lifeline transitioned into the nationwide 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline in 2022, the volume of calls surged dramatically. In 2024 alone, Caring Contact Listeners answered over 21,000 calls, serving as a lifeline for anyone in need - no matter the reason for their call.

Caring Contact extends heartfelt gratitude to the supporters, volunteers, donors, and staff - past and present—whose dedication has made


this work possible. Their compassion has touched countless lives and built a legacy of hope that will carry forward into the next 50 years. With this milestone, Caring Contact reaffirms its commitment to continue evolving, listening, and responding - because everyone deserves to be heard, especially in their darkest moments.

Become a volunteer. Caring Contact Listener training applications can be found at caringcontact.org.

If you or someone you know is struggling or having thoughts of suicide, please call 988.

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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**

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COUNTDOWN TO JULY 4TH, 2026

Next year, on July 4, 2026, the United States of America will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our country's past, to honor the contributions of all Americans, and to also look ahead towards the future that we want to create and leave behind for the next generation of Americans.

On the federal level, America250 is a nonpartisan initiative working to engage every American in commemorating the 250th anniversary of our country. This multi-year effort,

from now through July 4, 2026, is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond.

In New Jersey, RevolutionNJ has been set up and is a partnership between the New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC), a division of the New Jersey Department of State, and the nonprofit Crossroads of the American Revolution Association to plan the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in New Jersey.

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CANINE COMPANIONS CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Canine Companions

Mike Saverino was recently matched with his third Canine Companions service dog names Arbor. Mike is overjoyed about how Arbor has picked up right where his retiring service dog Webster left off, making a difference in Mike's daily life.

Arbor II is a two-year-old lab-golden retriever cross specially bred and trained by Canine Companions to serve people with disabilities. Arbor knows over 40 professional commands to assist Mike in his daily life. Arbor opens doors, turns on lights, and picks up dropped items for Mike to name just a few.

Mike enjoys sled hockey, weightlifting, and is heavily involved in the Canine Companions New Jersey Volunteer Chapter.

About Canine Companions: National nonprofit Canine Companions is celebrating 50 years of empowering people with disabilities to live with greater independence — and it all started with a service dog named Abdul. Canine Companions invented the concept of the modern service dog in 1975 and has since placed more than 8,200 expertly trained dogs at no cost to clients, entirely supported by donations. Today, as America's first and largest provider of service dogs, Canine Companions leverages seven locations across the country to serve adults, children and veterans with disabilities as well as professionals working in health care, law enforcement and educational settings in all 50 states. Volunteer, donate and learn more at canine.org.



(above) Mike Saverino & service dog Arbor

Courtesy Photo

COURSE ON HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR LOVED ONE'S MENTAL HEALTH JOURNEY

The NAMI Family-to-Family Education Course will be offered by the Union County Chapter of NAMI. The course will meet in person starting on Thursday evening October 9th and meet each Thursday from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. over a consecutive 8-week period in Scotch Plains. The course is free-of-charge, with all necessary materials furnished at no cost to participants.

The course is specifically for the parents, siblings, spouses/partners, teen-age and adult children, and significant others of individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. The program is not appropriate for individuals who, themselves, suffer from one of the major mental disorders. NAMI members who have completed intensive training will teach.

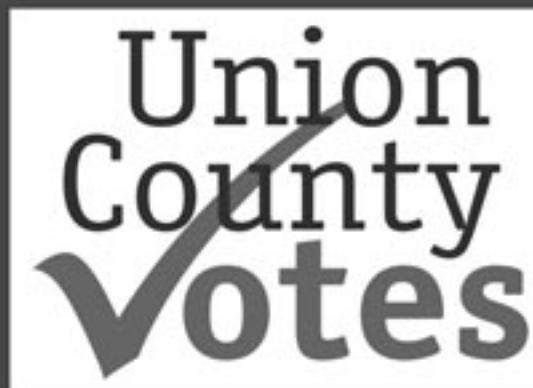
Curriculum topics include schizophrenia,

bipolar disorder (manic depression), clinical depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder etc., the clinical treatment of these illnesses and how caregivers can learn to cope more effectively. Attendees will learn about new research, medications, skills needed to successfully communicate with a relative and how to deal with critical periods.

Advance registration is required. To register or if you have questions contact Evelyn Nath at (908-377-4886) or email evelynodat@gmail.com

Family-to-Family education has been called one of the most valuable programs NAMI offers. Many graduates say it changed their lives and interactions with their loved ones for the better.

Visit namiunioncountynj.org for more information about the NAMI Family to Family Education program.



Joanne Rajoppi
Union County Clerk

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LIBRARY OCTOBER PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Movie Night

Wednesday, October 1, at 7pm

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

Junk Journaling

Thursday, October 2, at 6:30pm

Join us at our new monthly program to create and add to your very own junk journal!

International Film

Monday, October 6, 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.

Romance Readers Book Club

Monday, October 6, at 7pm

Please keep an eye on our website for the book title. If you don't want to read that book, feel free to come anyway to discuss whichever romance you've recently read.

Gel Press Workshop

Thursday, October 9, at 6:30pm

Join us for this instructor-led art workshop and learn how to make beautiful prints using the gel press! Space is limited and registration is required.

Adults Create

Tuesday, October 14, 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.

Wednesday Morning Adult Craft

Wednesday, October 15, at 10am

Join us for crafts! Visit our website to register and for more information.

Trivia Night

Wednesday, October 15, at 7pm

This free event is hosted by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library! Feel free to bring your own snacks and (non-alcoholic) drinks. Prizes awarded to the winning team.

Theater Project

Saturday, October 18, at 2pm

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. No registration needed.

Poetry in Motion

Thursday, October 23, at 7pm

The first half of the meeting will be a brief, informal class highlighting the history of poetry along with some of its major types and techniques. The second half will be in the style of a book club, with poems that we will discuss and interpret together as a group. We are working on a special off-site location for this month's "spooky" theme!

NJ Paranormal Lecture

Wednesday, October 29, at 6:30pm

Join us for a lecture presented by New Jersey Paranormal! No registration needed.

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.



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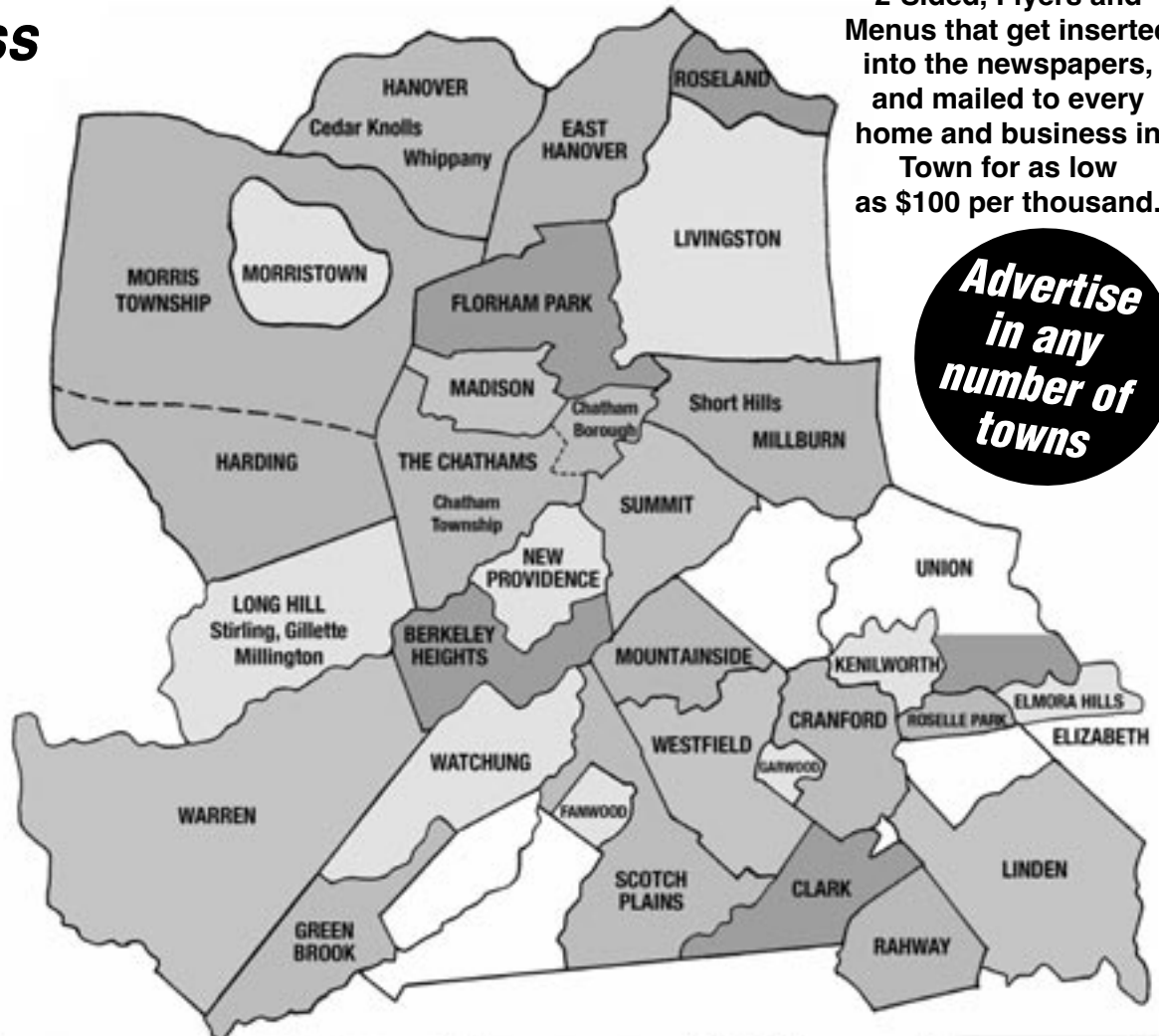
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