

CRANFORD MONTHLY_{NJ}

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COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO BENEFIT FAMILY CARE

Cranford, New Jersey's town seal bears a simple yet powerful motto: "Friendship and Progress." These words reflect the ideals its townspeople hold dear. Cranford is a close-knit tapestry of neighbors, local organizations, and shared traditions that come together swiftly in times of need. Those fortunate enough to grow up in Cranford carry these values with them, often finding ways to give back to the community that has given them so much.

On September 12, 2025, ninety-six Cranford High School graduates gathered at Galloping Hill Golf Course. Representing graduating classes from the 1970s through the 2020s, their purpose was simple: enjoy the camaraderie of CHS classmates while raising funds for those in need within the community. In its third year, the Cranford Homegrown Golf Outing, founded by Bill Folinusz, Mark Irwin, Dave Panetta, Anne Paterno, and Gerry Shamey, raised an impressive \$11,000. The proceeds were directed to Cranford Family Care, an organization devoted to helping struggling Cranford residents become self-sufficient.

Julie Carroll, Director of Cranford Family Care, expressed her appreciation for the donation, saying, "We are so grateful for the generosity of the Cranford Homegrown organizers and everyone who participated. It's heartwarming to see former CHS graduates continue to give back and help their hometown thrive. This contribution will make a real difference for local families who



need a little extra support."

Just weeks later, tragedy struck with the heartbreaking loss of two Cranford High School seniors on September 29, 2025. Once again, the spirit of Cranford shone through. The same group of alumni who had long since left the halls of CHS felt compelled to act, donating a portion of the funds raised to support the families affected. Their gesture was a reminder that being homegrown in Cranford means more than words, it means standing by one another when it matters most.

In today's fast-paced world, it's easy to lose sight of true community. But in Cranford, that sense of connection endures. Events like Cranford Homegrown exemplify the town's character and demonstrate that when challenges arise, Cranford's people respond, not with talk, but with action and heart embodying the town's motto of "Friendship and Progress."

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(above) Ninety-six Cranford High School graduates gathered at Galloping Hill Golf Course and raised an impressive \$11,000. The proceeds were directed to Cranford Family Care, an organization devoted to helping struggling Cranford residents become self-sufficient.

Courtesy Photo



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HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS HOUSE TOUR - DEC. 7

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The Cranford Women’s Club is delighted to present our annual “Home for the Holidays” house tour coming up on December 7, 2025 with our inspiring, thoughtful and heartwarming theme of “From the heart of Cranford”.

This year there are six exceptional homes for the tour which runs through the years of 1902 to 2024, showcasing restoration, renovation and innovation, including a previously flooded but now newly designed, elevated home.

Our three lovely Cranford garden clubs, along with several of our local florists will be creating and donating spectacular holiday floral displays, while live music will fill the air with joyful renditions of some holiday classics! And to commemorate this special theme, each tour participant will receive a thoughtful little token at every home, as a keepsake to remind us of our love for the very special town of Cranford.

Tickets, which are \$50 each, (must be 12yo and up w/no raindate) will be available for purchase

online starting Nov. 15th going through Dec 5th at Zeffy.com.

Tickets will also be available, for cash or check only, at the Cranford library, Augusta Mae, Hickory & Hill, Periwinkles and The Curious Heart shop. Tickets are limited to 400 participants and have sold out for the last 3 years, so please don’t hesitate!

All proceeds goes towards the Cranford Woman’s Club philanthropic endeavors, which includes supporting Cranford Family Care, Project Home, and other charitable organizations, along with some scholarships awarded to Cranford senior students. Ticket purchase this year will also include exclusive discounts at some local food establishments, and there will be special keepsake Cranford merchandise to purchase as well. So grab your besties, keep the tradition going, and come make a special day of it with us! It’s a fantastic way to start the holidays, with love, “from the heart of Cranford”.

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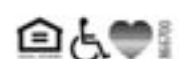
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FAMILY GAME NIGHT NOV. 21ST

The Cranford Prevention & Wellness Alliance's (CPAW) popular Family Game Night is returning this November, just in time for the dog days of winter. The event will be held at the Cranford Community Center at 220 Walnut Ave, from 6-9 PM on Friday, November 21st, and welcomes parents and children to meet up for a fun night of board games with families from town. Cranford Family Game Night is part of the continuing efforts of the Prevention & Wellness Alliance to prevent underage substance abuse in town, and to encourage positive health choices. Particularly at this time of year, Family Game Night is a great opportunity for everyone to emerge from hibernation, disconnect from devices for the evening, listen to music and play board games with each other, while interacting with fellow neighbors. Please note that parents must remain at the event with their children. The Prevention & Wellness Alliance looks forward to seeing you at the Community Center, on Friday, January 10th, at 6 PM.



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ENROLLING IN MEDICARE AND UPDATING YOUR PLAN

By George Sosa, President, The Sosa Insurance Group

Turning 65 marks eligibility for Medicare, a federal health insurance program designed for seniors and certain individuals with disabilities. While the system can be complex, resources are available to help beneficiaries navigate enrollment, updates, and plan changes to ensure their coverage continues to meet their needs.

Original Medicare consists of Part A (hospital insurance) and Part B (medical insurance). Part A covers hospital stays, skilled nursing facilities, home health, and hospice care. Part B focuses on outpatient care, doctor visits, preventive screenings, and therapies. While comprehensive, Original Medicare leaves gaps in coverage, which can be supplemented through Medigap policies. These help with deductibles, co-pays, and sometimes foreign travel coverage, offering flexibility and predictability.

Medicare Advantage (Part C), offered by private insurers, combines Parts A and B and often includes additional benefits like vision, dental, hearing, fitness programs, and lower premiums. These plans have out-of-pocket maximums, but often require use of in-network providers.

Prescription drug coverage (Part D) is also offered through private plans. Each plan has a formulary outlining covered medications, cost-sharing structures, and potential coverage gaps, though assistance programs like "Extra Help" exist for those with limited income. New Jersey also provides state assistance through PAAD and Senior Gold to help seniors manage prescription

drug costs.

For higher-income beneficiaries, Medicare applies IRMAA (Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount), which adds extra costs to Part B and D premiums based on IRS tax information.

Enrollment timing is crucial. While some may delay enrollment due to employer coverage, late enrollment penalties apply if coverage lapses without creditable insurance.

Every year, Medicare beneficiaries have an opportunity to review and adjust their coverage. The Annual Enrollment Period (October 15 – December 7) allows switching between Original Medicare and Advantage plans, adding or changing drug plans, or returning to Original Medicare. Any changes take effect January 1. Additionally, the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment (January 1 – March 31) allows those in Advantage plans to switch or return to Original Medicare.

When evaluating options, beneficiaries should consider cost, provider networks, additional benefits, drug coverage, and changes in their health or medications.

Understanding Medicare is the first step to making the best decisions for your health and budget. If you'd like help comparing plans or reviewing your coverage for 2026, The Sosa Insurance Group is here to guide you every step of the way. Contact us at 973-902-5445 to schedule a one-on-one review about your Medicare choices.

Medicare can be complicated. We Make it simple.

Annual Enrollment Period ends December 7th!

The Medicare Annual Enrollment Period is the time when Medicare beneficiaries can choose to re-evaluate their health care coverage. Getting Medicare or changing Medicare plans is a major milestone.

We specialize in Medicare Supplement, also known as Medigap, Medicare Advantage, Medicare and Medicaid and Stand-Alone Part D Prescription. We provide prospective clients with phone, virtual and face-to-face appointments to assist in navigating all your Medicare options:

- Change from one Medicare Advantage Plan to another Medicare Advantage Plan.
- Change from a Medicare Advantage Plan to Original Medicare.
- Change from Original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage Plan.
- Enroll in a Prescription Drug Plan or change your Prescription Drug Plan.
- If you're new to Medicare, you might have a different election period; reach out to us to review your options.

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The Sosa Insurance group is dedicated to assisting Medicare beneficiaries throughout their Medicare journey.

If you, parents or a loved one is new to Medicare, considering a change or just simply want to review their plan options, please call 973-902-5445 to speak with one of our expert agents. You can also reach us by email at info@thesosainsurancegroup.com to request a quote. Consultations are free of charge.

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HOOP SHOOT CONTEST FOR KIDS AGES 8–13

Cranford Elks Lodge #2006

The Cranford Elks Lodge #2006 invites local youth to take their shot at excellence in the 2025 Elks Hoop Shoot Free Throw Competition, taking place on Sunday, December 7, 2025, at the Cranford Recreation Center, located at 375 Centennial Avenue,

This annual event is free to enter and open to boys and girls ages 8 to 13 as of April 1, 2026. It's a fun, family-friendly competition that encourages sportsmanship, hard work, and community participation, while offering kids a chance to advance to district, state, regional, and even national competition in Chicago, Illinois.

Winners at the national level will be honored with a truly special distinction: their name will be enshrined in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts.

The Elks Hoop Shoot is more than just a free throw contest. It's a celebration of youth, determination, and achievement. Whether your child is an experienced basketball player or just wants to try something new, this is a great opportunity to be part of something special.

Pre-registration is encouraged. Go to tinyurl.com/cranfordhoopshoot or email cranfordelkshs@gmail.com for details.

EVENT SCHEDULE:

- Ages 8–9: Registration at 9:30 AM | Competition begins at 10:00 AM
- Ages 10–11: Registration at 10:30 AM | Competition begins at 11:00 AM
- Ages 12–13: Registration at 11:30 AM | Competition begins at 12:00 PM

This year's event is directed by John Smith and assisted by Melissa Hoffman.

Come out, show us what you've got, and take your first step toward national recognition. You might be the next Hoop Shoot champion to make it all the way to Chicago and into the Hall of Fame.

For questions or more information, contact John Smith at 908-400-4709 or email cranfordelkshs@gmail.com.

RUBBER DUCKY RACE A SWIMMING SUCCESS

Hanson Park Conservancy

We had 1300+ colorful racing ducks careening over the falls at Sperry Park Cranford, following the mama duck who was trying to swim forward. She never turned around as she kept looking over her baby ducks. The kids and other race fans spent longer cheering them on to see which color came in first place. The crowd cheered from both sides of the river bank and overlooking the bridge. The Yarnstormers provided a colorful tableau of knitted ducks hanging from the N. Union Bridge to watch their racing cousin ducks down below.

This year saw the largest crowd to date to witness our duck race. There were other activities to keep their attention while they waited to hear the numbers of the winning ducks. The Cranford Library had their bookmobile on site and helped the children make their own duck buttons. There was a duck "hole in the head" frame for selfie

pictures. While everyone waited for the announcement of the winning ducks they could purchase their own rubber rescue duck to take home along with a duck themed pen. There was a new raffle this year for the children, 12 glazed ceramic ducks. All children spectators were given a free raffle ticket and had the opportunity to go home with a beautifully crafted glazed ceramic duck.

Thank you:

Linda Livelli, Duck Race Chair has a degree in organizing as she kept all the trustees on track and herded the ducks to the finish line.

HPC Trustees who live the mission of Hanson Park Conservancy and give their all in any/all tasks to pull off a successful duck race.

For all the community support we receive, which makes Hanson Park Conservancy's Annual Rubber Ducky Race a special event in a truly unique town.

Cranford Elks #2006

HOOP SHOOT

Free Throw Competition

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Open to boys and girls ages 8-13 (as of April 1, 2026)

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Awards will be presented immediately after each age group

Event Schedule:
Ages 8-9: Registration 9:30 AM | Start 10:00 AM
Ages 10-11: Registration 10:30 AM | Start 11:00 AM
Ages 12-13: Registration 11:30 AM | Start 12:00 PM

Questions? Contact John Smith at 908-400-4709 or cranfordelkshs@gmail.com

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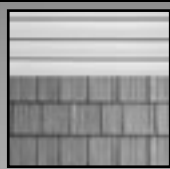
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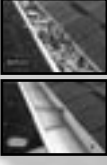
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VFW BREAKFAST WELCOMES ALL AREA VETS

Cranford VFW Post #335
On Sunday, November 9, 2025 Cranford VFW Post #335 will be holding its annual Veterans' Breakfast, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Post Home at 479 South Avenue East in Cranford. This FREE event is open to ALL AREA VETERANS, and a full "sit down" breakfast will be served by the Post Auxiliary.



(above) Navy Lt Mike Rotella will be the key speaker at the Cranford VFW annual Veterans Breakfast. All area veterans are invited to attend this free event.

Several notable speakers will be on hand, with the featured speaker being Cranford's own Navy LT Mike Rotella, who served on the staff of a Special Operations Command Joint Task Force supporting Operation Inherent Resolve and Gallant Phoenix in the Middle East.

Upon demobilization LT Rotella returned to the Office of Naval Intelligence Unit at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst as a Department Head of various units delivering real-time intelligence assessments to combat ready forces. He proudly serves in the Military Honor Guard performing Military Funeral Honors for fallen shipmates.

LT Rotella is warfare qualified as an Intelligence Officer and was awarded the Information Dominance Warfare Officer badge as well as Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal among many others. Recently retired from Federal Law Enforcement, he is a Cranford resident along with his wife Lisa and two children Kelly and Daniel. LT Rotella is a lifetime member of the VFW Post #335 in Cranford and is also is an active member of the Elks Veteran Service Committee and the Italian American Police Society of New Jersey.

This highly attended event is a great chance to meet and greet other veterans. If you are a veteran of any era, VFW Post #335 encourages you to attend this important, fulfilling event. There is no reservation required and more information may be obtained at the Post website at vfw335.org. or emailing jimdrc@verizon.net.

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MEET CRANFORD 86 HONOREE SGT DOMINIC A. PELUSIO, WWI CANADIAN SOLDIER AND FORESTER

Written by Vic Bary, Janet Cymbaluk Ashnault and Don Sweeney

Since 2016, the Cranford 86 Project has been steadily working to reintroduce the men behind the names that are listed on the bronze and granite tablets, which stand in Cranford's Memorial Park. Featured here is a World War I soldier, the first Cranford resident to enter a world war, Dominic A. Pelusio. Different from most of the heroes that we have written about so far, Dominic never served in any branch of our American fighting forces. Instead, years before U.S. involvement in World War I, he joined the army of our ally and neighbor to the north, Canada. Researching a story that dates back over 100 years can be challenging, and this one took us way beyond our normal range of historical knowledge. The bulk of our information came from a very detailed Cranford Chronicle newspaper obituary and the online database of Canadian First World War Personnel Records. Some of the information that we uncovered was blurry and conflicting, and although there are still a few blanks in the timeline that we created for this patriotic and interesting young man, we feel that we can present an accurate depiction of the life story of Dominic A. Pelusio.

Domenico Pietro Maria Alberto Pelusio was born in Calvi Risorto, Italy, just north of Naples, on August 7, 1884, to Giovanni and Catherine Pelusio. Giovanni died in 1900, leaving wife Catherine with nine children. In 1901, in their new roles as the eldest men of the family, Dominic, 17, and his older brother Cesare, 19, paved a path for the family as they immigrated to the United States. Catherine followed her sons, and with the rest of her children, traveled to the U.S. about two years later. In the 1910 U.S. census we see all of the Pelusios, except Dominic, living at 36 Burnside Avenue in Cranford. During the 1910's, some of Dominic's siblings relocated to Italian communities in Rochester, N.Y. and Ottawa, Canada, while some remained in Cranford. Although Dominic never appears in a U.S. census, he is listed sporadically in the Cranford Garwood & Kenilworth Directory, living on Burnside Ave, between the years of 1913 and 1917. We envisioned the authors of the directory struggling to understand a heavy Italian accent when they listed Dominic's brother Tiberio as "Teaberry".

THE EARLY YEARS OF WWI

When Canada first became involved with WWI, the United States remained on the sideline. When Britain went to war with Germany on August 4, 1914, Canada, as a British Dominion, was technically also at war with Germany, although it was allowed to determine its level of involvement. At that time, the Canadian Army consisted of a regular army of only 3,110 men and several militias.

Active participation of Canada in WWI was widely supported by Canadians of English heritage and widely opposed, and sometimes sabotaged, by Canadians of French heritage. Canada opted to create a mostly voluntary Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) that would eventually number 620,000, mostly men. 1,901

nursing sisters also served. Non-Whites (Blacks, Native Indians, and Chinese) were largely excluded. The CEF would ultimately consist of 260 consecutively numbered battalions formed into four divisions. The first division landed in France February, 1915.

With the CEF more focused on combat, Canada also provided large numbers of separate, supporting troops including the Canadian Forestry Corps (35,000 men) to which Dominic Pelusio would be assigned.

ITALY JOINS THE GREAT WAR

In May of 1915, the Ottawa Citizen newspaper reported on a large gathering that took place in Ottawa when Italy joined WWI on the side of the Allies. Dominic's younger brother Tiberio was the leader of an Italian labor union in Ottawa. On the front steps of the House of Commons, to a crowd of approximately 2,000 men and women of Italian descent, Tiberio delivered a rousing speech in English, and then in Italian. He praised Italy and urged the young men in the crowd to answer the call of duty in support of their motherland. The speech was met with an enthusiastic response from the audience and followed by a lively procession through the streets of Ottawa, with participants carrying colorful lanterns and the flags of the Allied countries. The Italians were encouraged with cheers from "a huge throng of admiring spectators of every nationality in the city". Two months later, apparently inspired by his brother's words and the patriotism of his countrymen, Dominic enlisted in the Canadian Army, almost two years before the United States would enter the war in April of 1917. Interestingly, on his application for service he listed "Nurse/Cook" as his contributing skills. It was also noted that Dominic had "numerous scars on both legs" and that he was the sole supporter of his widowed mother. After 14 weeks of basic training, Dominic was sent to "Cookery School" in Kingston, Ottawa. Since the Forestry Battalions were always looking for good cooks, most likely this became Dominic's duty overseas. As our team discussed Dominic's entry into the Great War, we surmised that an Italian cook from the area of the birthplace of the Margherita Pizza was a welcome addition to any early 20th century Army battlefield. This type of pizza, bearing the colors of the Italian flag, was invented in Naples, Italy, in 1887.

Dominic sailed for Europe April 16, 1916 with the CEF, arriving in England, where his unit became the 224th Forestry Battalion. While in England, he met a Scottish-born nurse, Margaret McDonald. In an immigration record, Margaret was described as auburn haired with a fresh complexion. The couple, apparently quickly smitten with each other, were married in July of 1916, in the borough of Pancras, in London.

FORESTERS BATTALIONS

The term, Forester's Battalion, requires some background as it does not exist in the American military.

In WWI, Canada assisted in the production of



A studio portrait of Dominic Pelusio provided by Dominic's great-niece Erminia.

timber for war purposes by providing the manpower necessary to cut and process timber in England. It was anticipated that trench warfare would require great amounts of timber.

Britain had traditionally obtained its timber by water from North America, Russia and Scandinavia. During the war, these shipping routes were under constant threat of attack from German U-boats. In addition, there was a critical need for cargo space to transport more valuable supplies, such as food and ammunition, to England and France. Timber was available overseas, but there was a shortage of "skilled laborers, fellers, haulers and sawyers" to harvest and process the resource.

Why was timber in great demand at the front lines? Lumber was needed to bolster trench walls ("revetting"), to line the muddy trench floors ("duck boards"), and to provide stakes for barbed wire. Railway ties and lumber for constructing corduroy roads over muddy terrain were also in demand. Finally, other lumber was used to construct shelters for troops, aircraft hangers and military buildings.

By March 1, 1916, the Canadian government created the 224th Battalion (Pelusio's battalion) dedicated specifically to harvesting and processing timber resources overseas. An additional three battalions – the 230th, 238th and 242nd, would be organized and recruited over the next 15 months.

Answering the request of the British government, by the end of the year, 11 companies of Canadian lumbermen were working in Britain, and three other companies (including Pelusio's

(continued on page 10)

SGT DOMINIC A. PELUSIO (continued from page 9)

company) had crossed the English Channel to work in France. In total, 35,000 Foresters served in WWI. These units were sometimes referred to, perhaps somewhat disparagingly, as “Sawdust Fusiliers”. A fusilier was a 1700s term for an infantryman that carried a fusil, or musket, in battle. By 1900 it was an honorary title, since muskets had been replaced by fast firing rifled firearms. Most Foresters spent the duration of the War in England and Scotland. A small number, including Dominic’s 224th Battalion, served in France and may sometimes have been employed as infantry.

GAS WARFARE IN WWI

Dominic’s Cranford Chronicle obituary indicates that he sailed with the 224th from England to France in August of 1916. It reported that after months of trench fighting, his unit was targeted by gas warfare.

Chlorine and phosgene were both gases and their use was prohibited by the 1899 Hague Declaration Concerning Asphyxiating Gases, and the 1907 Hague Convention on Land Warfare. Austria, France, Germany, Turkey, the United

Kingdom and the United States were all signatories to both documents.

As gases, both chlorine and phosgene were released from ground canisters and required the prevailing wind to blow over the enemy’s trenches. The first use of both gases was by Germany. It introduced chlorine gas at the First Battle of Ypres April 22, 1915. Britain responded with its own use of chlorine gas on September 25, 1915. Germany introduced the more deadly phosgene gas later in the war, using it individually or in combination chlorine gas. Mustard gas was an oily liquid which dispersed as droplets from an exploding artillery shell and was first used by the Germans on July 12, 1917. Since it was delivered by artillery, it could be used from great distances and with much more accuracy than the earlier ground dispersed chemical weapons. Both sides introduced gas masks and anti-gas training in response to these weapons, which gradually reduced the number of casualties due to chemical weapons. However, these silent killers remained feared and effective throughout WWI.

WE LEARN OF DOMINIC’S PREVIOUS WAR EXPERIENCE

Most of Dominic’s time spent overseas seemed to be spent in England, where he was in and out of military hospitals in England due to swelling and pain in one or both legs. A handwritten notation on his records indicated that the “edema”

(swelling) and scars on Dominic’s legs were a result of the “Turkish War – 5 years ago”. A few strategic internet searches solved the mystery of the source of Dominic’s old bullet wounds and revealed probably why he was not on the U.S. census in 1910. We believe that in 1911, Dominic fought for his home country of Italy in the Italo-Turkish War. Not one of our team of four was aware of the history behind this conflict even though it holds the distinction of the first use of aerial bombing in war. The Italo-Turkish War, which lasted only one year, was fought between Italy and the ancient Ottoman Empire over the colonization of land on the northern African coast, most of which was controlled by the Ottoman Empire. The heated political environment in Europe, described as having “feverish nationalism”, was fueled by a very complex, turbulent period in time for countries around the Mediterranean Sea. Literally every European power had their sights set on the acquisition of lands in northern Africa, for the wealth that was held by their underground minerals. Europe, in the early years of the 20th century, was in a raging industrial period. England, Italy and Germany were each developing massive, mechanized armies and powerful navies. Their needs for steel and energy sources such as coal and oil were great. The countries of northern Africa were already partly conquered by rising European might, but Italy had its sights on the oil-rich area of modern-day Libya. The war ended when Italy conquered the city of Tripoli and was awarded the north African provinces for which it had gone to war.

Domenic’s obituary reports that he was overcome by gas while facing Germany on January 2nd, 1917 in the Battle of Somme. He was sent to England for treatment before

(continued on page 11)



A WWI photograph illustrating a gas attack. Providing that there was a steady prevailing wind, the gas released from pressurized canisters would flow into enemy trenches. Being heavier than air, the poisons would settle into the trenches that defended troops from most other armaments. A reverse of the direction of the wind would be disastrous for the attacking force.



A typical scene inside a WWI trench outfitted with advanced construction. Wood lines the walls and floors, keeping the soldiers more comfortable and above the wet ground that made trench foot a common, debilitating condition of the infantry soldier. Note that each soldier is equipped with a gas mask, a standard part of a WWI issued gear.



Members of the Canadian Forestry Corps pose for a photo while loading timber in Gérardmer, France, in February 1919, just after the First World War.



Laying communications lines in France made easier due to the presence of duckboards. The muddiness of the terrain required the mass construction of miles of these simple narrow wooden walkways both above ground, and also in the elaborate mazes of trenches that dominated the countryside.



A museum diagram of a classic WWI trench, showing how the duck boards helped to keep soldiers' feet dry, helping them to avoid the wartime malady called "trench foot".



WWI-Allied-Trenches

SGT DOMINIC A. PELUSIO (continued from page 10)

eventually being sent back to Canada for hospitalization. In May of 1917, after his condition stabilized, Dominic returned to Cranford on furlough. During this time he participated in a speaking tour, supporting the Red Cross, relating his experiences in the war zone to school children. A Courier News article from 1917 describes him speaking to students at Westfield High School. Unfortunately, after Dominic returned to Canada, he once again required hospitalization at St. Luke's in Ottawa. He was diagnosed with "leucocythaemia" or in modern terms, leukocytosis or a high white blood cell count. Dominic remained hospitalized until, sadly, he passed away on January 21st, 1918 at 33 years of age. The cause of his death was lymphatic leukemia resulting in cardiac failure.

SORTING OUT THE FACTS

Our team tried very hard to correlate the information found in Dominic's obituary versus his official medical records. The obituary stated that he served for months in the trenches in France, but his medical records describe several hospital admissions during that time in England, for treatment to the chronic leg problems with which Dominic was plagued. The records that we saw made no mention of any effects of toxic gas. We can verify that Dominic was in France, but for a short time, as indicated by a notation on a medical card stating "18 days in France".

Leukemia can be caused by exposure to mustard gas. However, mustard gas was not "officially" used until July of 1917, by the German Army. This was seven months after Dominic's reported exposure to some type of gas at the Battle of Somme on January 2nd, 1917. We invite the reader to ponder the possible cause of Dominic's fatal illness.

Additionally, the Battle of Somme, one of the deadliest battles in history, was waged from July 1st to November 18, 1917, ending a few months

before Dominic's reported gassing incident in that battle. This was another discrepancy found in the obituary which we had hoped would guide us accurately through Dominic's life. It would seem that the author of the obituary used the information that was available at the time, probably family hearsay, rather than official records and historical accounts which are so readily available now in the internet age. It should be noted though, that family stories should not be completely dismissed. Anyone who has had experience in genealogical research will tell you that these secondhand tales usually hold at least a grain of truth and should be explored.

Inaccuracies in Dominic's documented history do not detract from the fact that this young man went to war in support of his home country, not once, but twice. Despite being afflicted with troublesome war wounds, he left the safety of Cranford to join Canada in the fight against the Central Powers and at the same time, provided income to his widowed mother. Dominic Pelusio was a true patriot and we are proud to recognize him as one of Cranford's 86 Fallen Heroes.

HONORING DOMINIC

In late January, 1918, a flag-draped gun carriage carried the body of Canadian Expeditionary Force soldier, Sgt. Dominic A. Pelusio, to its final resting place. A service was performed in the "undertaker's chapel" at Beechwood Cemetery in Ottawa, Canada. Flags of every Allied country were flown, and the Union Jack flag was draped over his coffin as it was under it that Dominic served. Many members of the Great War Veterans' Association were present at the funeral and 150 wounded soldiers from his regiment carried floral arrangements in the procession. Dominic's wife Margaret and brothers Tiberio and Cesare with his sister Erminia traveled to Ottawa for the funeral. His mom Catherine was unable to travel due to health

restrictions; she remained in Cranford with Dominic and Margaret's son, 18-month-old Albert Cesare. Dominic was reportedly survived by his mom, three sisters and four brothers as well as his wife Margaret and their son.

Finding a photo of a WWI serviceman is a difficult task. We were very fortunate to locate the granddaughter of Dominic's sister Erminia, also named Erminia, living in Rochester, N.Y. Our team was ecstatic that she was able to provide us with a photo of Dominic, all five feet five inches of him, in a sepia tone, in his Sunday best. That treasured image will grace Dominic Pelusio's street banner which will be placed prominently in our town.

Dominic Pelusio and all of Canada's fallen military are paid tribute to in Canada on November 11th, Remembrance Day. Of the 620,00 CEF members in WWI, 67,000 were killed and 173,000 wounded (four out of five survived and returned to duty). This was an astounding 39% casualty rate. In Ottawa, activities on this day are centered around the beautiful National War Memorial, which was dedicated in 1939.

Because Dominic's address of record, when he entered the military, was Cranford N.J., Dominic's name is on our town's WWI monument in Memorial Park on Springfield Avenue. Each year in May, on Memorial Day, a parade is held. In the ceremony afterwards, as has been done for over 100 years, Dominic's name, along with the names of all of Cranford's 86 Fallen Heroes, will be read. On Memorial Day 2026, Dominic's story will be highlighted and his brand new street banner will be unveiled.

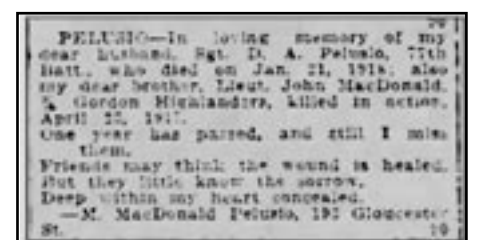
A special note of thanks goes out to the members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force Study Group who enthusiastically responded to our request for assistance in documenting the life and service of Sgt. Dominic A. Pelusio.



(middle) Recruitment poster calling young Canadians to volunteer for the 224th Canadian Forestry Battalion.

(left, top) 224th Forestry Battalion (Infantry) Unit Crest

(left, bottom) Dominic Pelusio was the first resident of Cranford to lose his life in WWI. 108 years later, as one of Cranford's 86 Fallen Heroes, his story has finally been told and his image revealed. Dominic is buried at Beechwood Cemetery, Ottawa, Canada. The maple leaf and cross indicate that this soldier is buried in a Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) cemetery.



(above, right) The National War Memorial in Ottawa, Canada is an impressive monument which symbolizes the sacrifice of the Canadian Armed Forces which have served Canada in time of war. It is the site of Canada's national Remembrance Day Ceremony in November of each year. There are depictions of 22 different Canadian WWI-era service members, including one representing a Canadian Forester.

Dominic's wife, Margaret MacDonald Pelusio, lost both her brother and husband in WWI. She submitted this memorial to the Ottawa Citizen one year after Dominic's death.

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Activities offered on an age-appropriate basis help members learn about American history, government, historic preservation, conservation, community service and more. Members also gain valuable leadership experience conducting

meetings and serving as delegates at state and national conferences.

The New Jersey C.A.R. state project for 2025-2026 is "Patriot Privateers," and focuses on the critical role of privateers off the New Jersey coast during the American Revolution. The goal is to create an educational marker to be placed along the New Jersey shore.

Pis-Cat-A-Qua Society C.A.R., hosted by the Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, is seeking new members. For more information, contact ESCchapterDAR@gmail.com or visit nscar.org.





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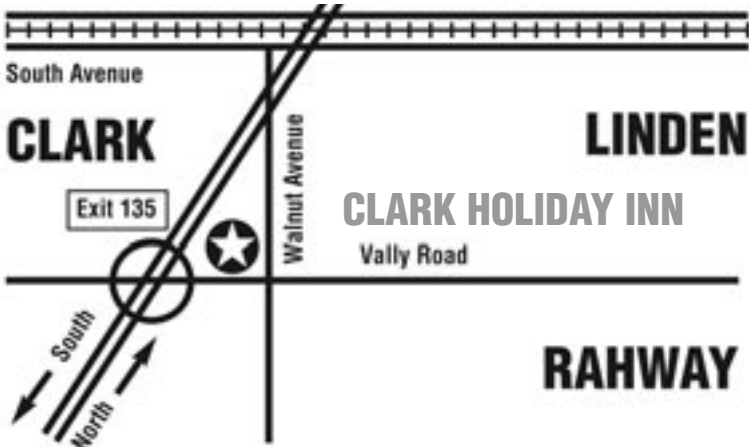
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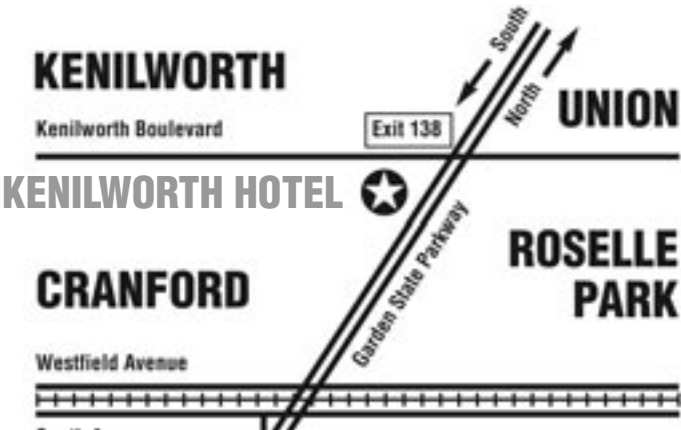


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NJ FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA: CANDLELIGHT CONCERT AND TENORS RETURN

Step into an evening of sophistication and charm as the New Jersey Festival Orchestra presents its first-ever candlelight concert, Romance in the Mansion, on Saturday, November 15 at 6:30 PM at the James Ward Mansion in Westfield.

Under the baton of Music Director and Maestro David Wroe, a string quartet of NJFO musicians — Bradley Bosenbeck (Violin I), Théo Payen (Violin II), Gregory Williams (Viola), and Ansel Cohen (Cello) — will perform an intimate program that blends the romance of Broadway, the emotion of cinematic scores, and the allure of contemporary classics. Audiences will be swept away by lush arrangements from beloved artists such as ABBA, Coldplay, George Gershwin, and more — all illuminated by the warm glow of candlelight in one of Westfield’s most elegant settings.

Guests can indulge in complimentary wine and small plates as they enjoy this unique fusion of artistry and atmosphere. With its golden décor, intimate seating, and unforgettable musical program, Romance in the Mansion promises to be a highlight of the NJFO season.

NJFO gratefully acknowledges the Ward family for generously sharing their beautiful space to support this fundraising event. Proceeds will help bring notable soloists to future NJFO concerts and fund community initiatives such as the orchestra’s Listening is Healing music therapy program. Earlier this season, NJFO musicians Yifei Xu and Matthew Armbruster shared the gift of music with patients at Overlook Hospital in Summit, NJ, an inspiring example of the impact programs like Listening is Healing bring to the community.

“We are thrilled to present this intimate concert experience and deeply grateful for the generosity that allows us to continue sharing music both on stage and beyond,” said Maestro Wroe.

Following Romance in the Mansion, NJFO rings in the festive season with one of its most anticipated events — The Return of the Holiday Tenors.

Back by popular demand, this symphonic spectacular will fill the concert hall with the magic of the holidays, featuring award-winning tenors John Kun Park, Luke Norvell, and Michael DeShield alongside guest choruses and the full

New Jersey Festival Orchestra. Together, they’ll perform an uplifting program of holiday classics, Broadway-style showstoppers, and beloved seasonal songs that capture the joy and wonder of the season.

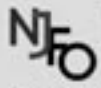
Under Maestro Wroe’s direction, this festive performance blends grand symphonic arrangements with soaring vocals and heartwarming moments, making it a beloved tradition for families across New Jersey.

PERFORMANCES TAKE PLACE ON

- Saturday, December 6, at 7:00 PM
Presbyterian Church in Westfield, and on
- Sunday, December 7, at 3:00 PM
The Concert Hall at Drew University, Madison.

From the candlelit elegance of Romance in the Mansion to the jubilant voices of The Return of the Holiday Tenors, NJFO’s 2025 season offers something truly special for every music lover.

Tickets are available at njfestivalorchestra.org or by calling the NJFO office at (908) 232-9400 during operational hours. Seating is limited, and early reservations are encouraged.

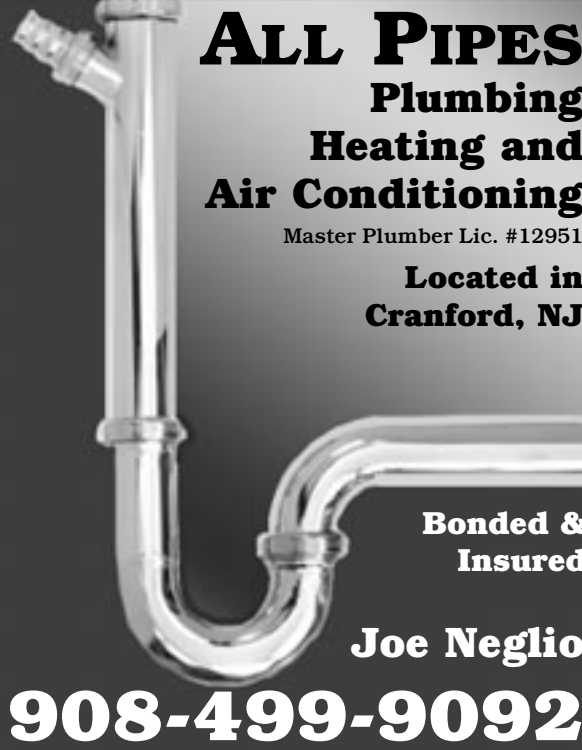
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CRANFORD LIBRARY NOVEMBER PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Romance Readers Book Club

Monday, November 3, 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.

Movie Night

Wednesday, November 5, 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.

Junk Journaling

Thursday, November 6, at 6:30pm

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

Lit Café

Saturday, November 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 Café will meet Fridays in the Summer and return to Saturdays in the Fall.

International Film

Monday, November 10, 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.

Theater Project

Saturday, November 15, 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, November 17, at 2pm & 7pm
(at The Morning Roast)**

Join us for our monthly Books and Brew book club at The Morning Roast! 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.

Rave On Concert

Tuesday, November 18, at 7pm

A cool little rock & roll band featuring the music of Buddy Holly & Roy Orbison! Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.

Adults Create

Tuesday, November 18, 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.

Trivia Night

Wednesday, November 19, 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.

Wednesday Morning Adult Craft

Wednesday, November 19, 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.

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Fanwood Post NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07023	Florham Park Press NJ Qty: 6,000 Zip: 07932	Garwood NJ Times Qty: 2,500 Zip: 07027	Green Brook NJ Gazette Qty: 3,300 Zip: 08812	HANOVER TOWNSHIP PRESS NJ CEDAR KNOLLS WHIPPANY Qty: 6,100 Zips: 07927, 07981	BUSINESS • LIFE KENILWORTH NJ Qty: 3,500 Zip: 07033	NJ LIFE in LINDEN Qty: 18,000 Zip: 07036	Livingston NJ Monthly Qty: 12,100 Zip: 07039
Long Hill LEADER NJ Qty: 3,500 Zips: 07933, 07946, 07980	MADISON MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,300 Zip: 07940	Short Hills MILLBURN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 8,200 Zips: 07041, 07078	MORRIS TOWNSHIP TIMES NJ Qty: 13,500 Zip: 07960, Harding 07976	MORRISTOWN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 7,000 Zip: 07960	MOUNTAINVIEW NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07092	New Providence NEWS NJ Qty: 5,100 Zip: 07974	OUR TOWN Rahway, NJ Qty: 13,100 Zip: 07065
Life in Roseland NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07068	ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY Qty: 5,600 Zip: 07204	Scotch Plains NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07076	Summit NJ Times Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	Spirit of UNION NJ Qty: 7,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	WARREN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,500 Zip: 07059	Watchung Post NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	Westfield NJ MONTHLY Qty: 12,000 Zip: 07090

NEWSPAPER AD RATES		1 TOWN	3 TOWNS	6 TOWNS	9 TOWNS	12 TOWNS	15 TOWNS	18 TOWNS	21 TOWNS	24 TOWNS	27 TOWNS	30 TOWNS
Units (wide x High)	Size											
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										
BACK PAGE	10"x14"	600										
FRONT PAGE BANNER	8.25"x2"	360										
FRONT PAGE BOX	1.5"x4.5"	320										

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ELKS SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENT FRIENDSHIP DAY

NJ Elks East Central District

The Elks annual Friendship Day at Turtle Back Zoo took place on September 29. Over 1,500 special needs students, teachers, and aides learned about the animals on display while enjoying activities, games, a DJ, train rides, and face painting sponsored by Elks from the North Central District.

Meanwhile, Elks from the East Central District, with Lodges in Stirling, Summit, Mountainside, Springfield, Cranford, Union, and Rahway, prepared and served a delicious hot dog lunch for the hungry visitors.

Elks Care - Elks Share. And Friendship Day is one of many ways that the Elks turn those words into action. Throughout NJ, Elks provide assistance for the caring of special needs children. The Elks maintain clinics, hire nurses, therapists, pediatricians, psychologists, and teachers as well as provide equipment such as crutches, wheelchairs, walkers, and hospital beds to those in need. In addition, Elks Camp Moore provides special needs children with a fun-filled summer vacation away from home where they

can try new adventures, create lasting friendships, and experience opportunities that promote independence and greater self-confidence.

Please visit Elks.org for more information, and learn how to join.



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