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HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS LES MISERABLES SCHOOL EDITION

Cranford Public Schools

Cranford High School Performing Arts Department proudly presents Les Miserables on February 27 at 7:30 p.m., February 28 at 7:30 p.m., and March 1 at 2:00 p.m.

Set in early 19th century France, the musical focuses on redemption, love, and being "On My Own". Based on the 1862 novel of the same name by Victor Hugo and with music by Claude-Michel Schonberg, lyrics by Alain Boublil and Jean-Marc Natel, and a book by Boublil and Schonberg. Please join the cast, crew, and production team in finding out "Who Am I?" in our CHS auditorium! You can easily find ticket information by visiting chs.booktix.com, or emailing Mrs Elizabeth Adams at adams@cranfordschools.org.

We hope you'll meet us in the "Castle on a Cloud" and see our show!



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(above) Les Miserables School Edition will be performed by Cranford High School students.

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JR LEAGUE SCHOLARSHIP APPS DUE APRIL 6

The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield (JLEP) is pleased to announce that in 2026 we will be awarding four \$4,000 scholarships to college bound women who reside in Union County and demonstrate a passion for volunteerism.

The JLEP believes that volunteerism is a vital force in our community, and we support young women who share our passion by awarding scholarships to college-bound high school seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to volunteer activities. The scholarships will be awarded in May 2026.

Scholarship Committee Chair Bernadette Houston says "The JLEP- serving the Elizabeth and Plainfield areas and all the towns in between- is pleased to share that we will be awarding four scholarships for worthy candidates as they begin their college journey. These scholarships are not based on financial need but are about identifying leaders and volunteers who have been outstanding in their communities while maintaining top grades."

To be considered for a scholarship, applicants are asked to complete the application form, write a 300-to-400-word essay about their volunteer experiences, and provide two letters of recommendation.

The application form is available on our

website, jlepnj.org, or by sending a request via email to scholarship@jlepnj.org or by leaving a message with your address and/or email address at 908-709-1177.

The deadline for submitting applications is April 6, 2026. There will be a formal presentation of the scholarships to the recipients at the JLEP's Annual Dinner on May 20st, 2026.

To find out more about the League's scholarship program or about how to join as a member, contact the League at 908-709-1177, via email at scholarship@jlepnj.org, or visit our website at jlepnj.org.

ABOUT THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ELIZABETH PLAINFIELD

The Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield is a chapter of the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. and is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

Learn more: jlepnj.org.

For more information about the Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield, please contact:

Stephanie Eckenrode, President 2025-2026,
president@jlepnj.org

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15th Annual Cranford Community Holocaust Day of Remembrance

Hillside Avenue School
Wednesday, March 25, 2026 | 7:00PM



Enduring Lives: What We Protect, We Must Remember

Presented by: Cranford Clergy Council,
Cranford Interfaith Human Relations Committee,
Cranford Public Schools, Saint Michael School

HOLOCAUST DAY OF REMEMBRANCE - MAR 25

Cranford's 15th Annual Community Holocaust Day of Remembrance will be held on Wednesday, March 25th at 7:00 p.m. at Hillside Avenue School. It is organized by the Cranford Clergy Council, the Cranford Interfaith Human Relations Committee, Cranford Public Schools, and St. Michael School.

This annual event aims to honor the memory of the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust while educating about the horrors of genocide. This year's theme is "Enduring Lives: What We Protect, We Must Remember." We honor the individuals who risked their lives to hide and rescue children and adults of the Holocaust and to preserve the truth for future generations. It challenges us to reflect on our responsibility to engage with their accounts and ensure their stories are never forgotten.

Our keynote speaker will be Holocaust

survivor Dr. Susan Lederman, who will share her story of how she and her family survived the Holocaust in Slovakia through a combination of chance and the extraordinary courage of the people who risked their lives to save them.

Fr. Andrew Kruger of Cranford's Trinity Episcopal Church and chair of the Cranford Clergy Council will introduce the performances and speakers, which include Cranford Township Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty and Cranford Public Schools Superintendent Mark Cantagallo.

Performers include the Dance Ensemble and the Madrigals from Cranford High School, as well as the orchestra from Hillside Avenue School, the chorus from Orange Avenue School, and original reflective poetry from St. Michael School students.

This event is free and open to the public. It will also be recorded and aired on Cranford's TV35.

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NJ FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA PRESENTS “MUSIC FOR A MATADOR

An Operatic Gala Inspired by Bizet’s Carmen

The New Jersey Festival Orchestra (NJFO) invites patrons and music lovers to “Music for a Matador,” an unforgettable operatic fundraising gala featuring highlights from Bizet’s Carmen. The event will take place Friday, April 10, 2026, from 6:00–10:00 PM at The Gran Centurions in Clark, NJ.

The evening will showcase electrifying

excerpts from Bizet’s iconic opera, narrated by Maestro David Wroe and brought to life by NJFO musicians alongside acclaimed guest artists. Featured performers include Lisa Marie Rogali as Carmen, Dane Suarez as Don José, Sara LeMesh as Micaëla, and SeungHyeon Baek as Escamillo. Guests can expect an immersive operatic experience filled with drama, romance,

and unforgettable musical moments.

In addition to the performance, attendees will enjoy a beautifully curated dinner and have the opportunity to participate in both live and silent auctions, featuring exclusive experiences, gifts, and collectibles.

Proceeds from “Music for a Matador” support NJFO’s ongoing education and community outreach programs, including Listening is Healing, which brings live classical music to hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and community settings. Recently, NJFO has expanded this program to Overlook Medical Center in Summit, NJ, offering patients and staff moments of reflection, calm, and inspiration through music. Funds raised at the Gala help sustain these programs and ensure that NJFO’s artistry and educational initiatives remain accessible to communities across New Jersey.

“Music for a Matador” offers a unique blend of operatic performance and gala celebration, providing patrons with an evening that is both culturally enriching and socially impactful. Sponsors and guests play a vital role in sustaining NJFO’s mission to bring world-class music to audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

For tickets, sponsorships, or more info, visit www.njfestivalorchestra.org/gala-2026 or email info@njfestivalorchestra.org.

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RECRUITS GRADUATE FROM FIRE ACADEMY

Cranford Fire Department

Four Cranford Call Firefighter recruits have successfully graduated from the Union County Fire Academy. Call Firefighters Jacob Cermak, Michael DeGregorio, Brandon DiPaolo and Robert Salvatore earned their Firefighter 1 & 2 certifications during a graduation ceremony held at Union College on December 11, 2025. During the graduation ceremony, Call Firefighter Michael DeGregorio was presented with the prestigious Ben Laganga Leadership Award. To earn this award, you must demonstrate a

commitment to public safety and leadership throughout the program.

“These recruits put in a lot of time and effort graduating from a rigorous 18-week program that introduces new fire recruits to the basics of nationally recognized firefighting techniques in both classroom setting and during hands on drill sessions,” said Chief Dan Czeh. “We are proud and happy to welcome these new recruits to our Volunteer Division. Graduating this academy is a testament to their commitment to serve the community as firefighters.”



(above) Call Firefighter Michael DeGregorio was presented with the prestigious Ben Laganga Leadership Award. To earn this award, you must demonstrate a commitment to public safety and leadership throughout the program.



(above) Cranford Call Firefighters Jacob Cermak, Michael DeGregorio, Brandon DiPaolo, Robert Salvatore, and Michael DeGregorio. Center-Fire Chief, Daniel Czeh.

Photos courtesy of the Cranford Fire Department.



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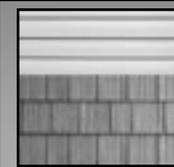
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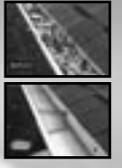
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YOUTH SYMPHONY REHEARSALS FREE AND OPEN TO PUBLIC - MARCH 1-5



The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS), a program of Wharton Arts, invites young musicians and their families to experience the excitement of ensemble music-making during the NJYS Open Rehearsals Week, taking place March 1-5, 2026.

Throughout the week, visitors are welcome to observe live rehearsals of any of NJYS's 15 ensembles, offering a rare behind-the-scenes look at how young musicians collaborate, learn, and grow under the guidance of NJYS's accomplished artistic staff. Open Rehearsals Week is designed for students in grades 2-11 who are curious about joining a youth orchestra or expanding their musical journey.

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet NJYS conductors, experience the rehearsal process firsthand, and explore how NJYS nurtures musical excellence, teamwork, and confidence in young performers.

Said Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Helen Cha-Pyo, "At the New Jersey Youth Symphony, we hold our students to the highest standards of musical excellence and artistry because they are capable of extraordinary things. At the same time, our core mission goes beyond performance. We want our students to experience the profound connection between music and life, and to understand the power of music as a force for service, empathy, and community building. Open Rehearsals Week is an open invitation to parents, educators, and students to step inside our rehearsal rooms, feel the joy of our community, and witness the 'serious fun' that happens when young people make music together with purpose,

passion, and heart."

NJYS is one of New Jersey's premier youth orchestra programs, serving talented young musicians from across the region through a comprehensive range of ensembles and educational experiences. Open Rehearsals Week reflects NJYS's commitment to access, education, and artistic excellence.

Attendance is free, but advance registration is encouraged. Registration and additional information available at NJYS.org.

ABOUT THE NEW JERSEY YOUTH SYMPHONY

The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS), a program of Wharton Arts, provides exceptional orchestral and ensemble training to young musicians in grades 2-12. Through a wide range of ensembles, performances, and educational opportunities, NJYS fosters musical excellence, collaboration, and a lifelong appreciation for the arts.

Wharton Arts' mission is to offer accessible, high quality performing arts education that sparks personal growth and builds inclusive communities. Wharton Arts' vision is for a transformative performing arts education in an inclusive community to be accessible for everyone.

Wharton Arts is located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence, and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 12 counties. All of Wharton Arts' extraordinary teaching artists, faculty members, and conductors hold degrees in their teaching specialty and have been vetted and trained to enable our students to achieve their personal best.

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KRISTEN D'ANNA INCOMING PRINCIPAL OF LINCOLN SCHOOL

The Cranford Board of Education is pleased to announce Kristen D'Anna as the incoming Principal of Lincoln School, effective July 1, 2026.

Ms. D'Anna currently serves as Principal of Brookside Place School and brings extensive experience leading schools that support the whole child. She has previously served as Principal of Bloomingdale Avenue School and as Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction in the East Hanover Township School District. Ms. D'Anna began her career as a teacher in the Freehold Township School District.

Ms. D'Anna holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from the University of Delaware and a Master of Arts in Educational Administration from Georgian Court University. Ms. D'Anna is committed to fostering safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environments where students can grow academically, socially, and emotionally. She looks forward to partnering with students, staff, families, and district leadership to ensure a smooth transition and continued success for the Lincoln School community.

UNICO WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER - MARCH 27

The Greater Westfield UNICO Chapter is proud to present its Spring Wine Tasting, an elegant and enjoyable charity event designed to bring together wine enthusiasts and community supporters for a night of great tastes and good causes. The event will take place on Friday, March 27, 2026, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Columbian Club, 2400 North Avenue in Scotch Plains, NJ.

Guests are invited to sip, savor, and celebrate spring while sampling a curated selection of wines, spirits and beer and enjoying appetizers in a relaxed and festive atmosphere. The tasting promises a wonderful opportunity to explore beverages, mingle, and enjoy the vibrant energy of the season. Wine will be available for purchase at a discounted price at this special event.

Proceeds from the event will directly benefit the local charitable activities including student scholarships supported by the Greater Westfield UNICO Chapter. As part of UNICO National, the largest Italian-American service organization in

the United States, the chapter is committed to "Service Above Self"— promoting Italian-American heritage and providing meaningful support to educational, cultural, and charitable causes in the community.

"Our Spring Wine Tasting is more than just an evening of great wine — it's a chance for neighbors and supporters to gather for a meaningful cause," said Gene Jannotti, President of the UNICO Westfield Chapter. "Every ticket purchased helps further our mission of service, community outreach, and support for local students."

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Wine tasting featuring a variety of selections and discounts
- Social networking and community engagement
- Support for local UNICO charitable initiatives including student scholarships

REGISTER TODAY!

Tickets are available online: bit.ly/455rAn0

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

This event offers a welcoming and enjoyable experience for all. Donations and sponsorships are encouraged and will help amplify UNICO's impact in supporting education, culture, and service both locally and nationally. The Amici Sponsorship is only \$100 and includes one ticket. The Salute Sponsor is \$250 and the Top Shelf Sponsor is \$500.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contact Daniela LeCras - Chapter Secretary, Greater Westfield UNICO Chapter at unicowestfield@gmail.com.

More Information:
<https://bit.ly/455rAn0>




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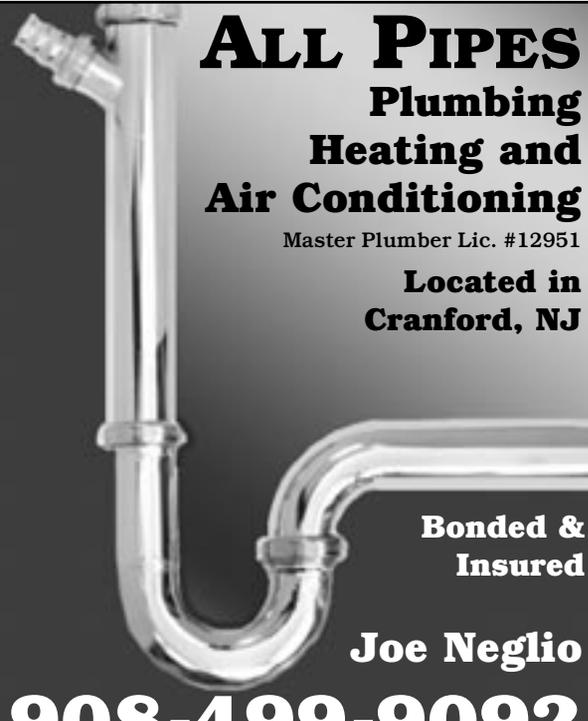
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WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU HIT "PAUSE"?

The parishes of St. Bartholomew the Apostle, Immaculate Heart of Mary in Scotch Plains along with the Church of the Little Flower Berkley Heights and St. James the Apostle Springfield are inviting men of all ages to attend this year's Men's Cornerstone XVII retreat. It will be on Friday March 6th and Saturday March 7th and held at St. Bartholomew in Scotch Plains.

WHAT IS CORNERSTONE?

Cornerstone is an opportunity to hit the "pause button" in life and a chance to renew and strengthen your faith and grow in your experience in the Christian faith. It is led by a team of parishioners from various backgrounds and ages who themselves have experienced an increased presence of Christ in their lives.

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND CORNERSTONE?

You will have a unique opportunity to meet other men of the community and together listen, reflect, and share real life experiences. Taking the time to retreat from daily routine and stress is both a necessary and rewarding experience.

WHAT DOES "CORNERSTONE" MEAN?

The word "Cornerstone" describes Christ as the main foundation ("the cornerstone") of our lives. His presence within us allows us to live, grow, and become more loving and vibrant people of God.

What can I expect at Cornerstone? It will begin on Friday evening March 6th at 6 p.m. and end on Saturday evening March 7th after Mass and dinner. There will be talks, followed by small group discussions, time for quiet personal reflection, Reconciliation, and Eucharist.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Please visit the web sites of either St. Bartholomew the Apostle at stbartholomewchurch.org/mens-cornerstone or Immaculate Heart of Mary at ihmparish.net. You may also reach out to the co-directors: Jim Brennan 908-337-6874, jpbrennan1946@gmail.com; Jose Montero 201-310-4278, josegomezmontero@hotmail.com; or Pat Cetera 908-230-7282, ceteras4@verizon.net.

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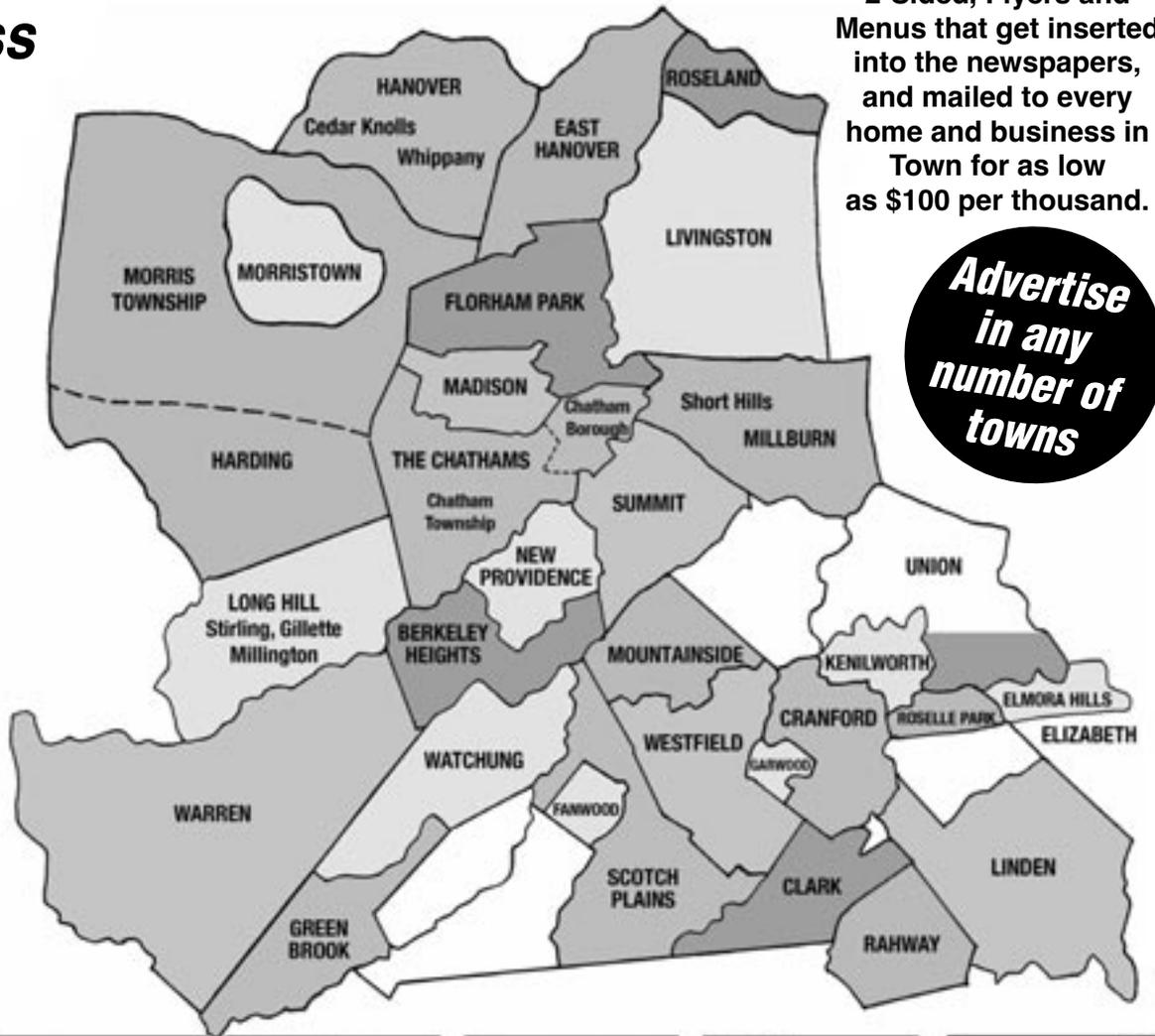
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6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF PAGE	6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
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LIBRARY MARCH PROGRAMS

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Lighthouse Craft

Thursday, March 5 at 3:45 p.m.

This program is intended for children ages 7+, registration is required and can be done online.

Unplug with a Robot

Saturday, March 7 at 11:00 a.m.

Take a break from electronics with a story and building your own robot buddy out of tissue boxes and other items. Registration is required and can be done online. This program is for children ages 6+, registration is required.

Graphic Novel Book Club

Monday, March 9 at 6:00 p.m.

Fans of graphic novels and comics in grades 3-5 are invited to join us for Graphic Novel Book Club. This month we'll be reading the book *The Night Librarian*. Registration is required

Pajama Storytime

Thursday, March 12th from 6:00-6:45

Thursday, March 19, April 9

May 14 at 6:00 p.m.

Friends in grades K+, it's time to wear our pajamas and relax as we listen to a story and make some crafts! Stuffed animals are welcome! Registration is not required.

Mario Kart Makers Day Lock In

Friday, March 20 - from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Make a course for Mario Kart live in this Makers Day event! Build a race course for Mario and Luigi and race against your friends. For children ages 8+, registration is required.

STEM Fun

Tuesday, March 31 at 10:15 a.m.

Budding scientists are invited to join us to learn about watersheds. This program is for children ages 6-11, registration is required.

Upcycled Bookmarks

Thursday, April 2 at 4:00 p.m.

Create a bookmark out of cardboard and decorate with paper, markers, pages from magazines, and more. For children ages 7+, no registration is required.

Hanson Park Storytime

Babies and toddlers:

Tuesday mornings from April 7 - May 19.

Families with children ages 3-5:

Thursdays from April 9 through May 21.

Both programs meet at 9:30 a.m.

Bring a blanket or chair to sit on. In the event of inclement weather, this event will be cancelled. We'll be hosting a special session of this series Thursday, April 23. Families with children of all ages are invited to participate in a work-themed storytime and craft. No registration is required.

Unicorn Storytime

Thursday, April 9 at 4:00 p.m.

Celebrate National Unicorn Day. For children ages 5+, registration is required.

Tissue Box Bird Feeder

Tuesday, April 14 at 4:00 p.m.

Make a bird feeder out of recycled tissue boxes. You will receive Suet bird feed so you can feed birds. This program is for ages 6+, registration is required.

Community Art Swap

Saturday, April 18 - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

This all ages program - suitable for children, teens, and adults. Bring new or gently used arts

and craft materials and swap them for something new. The last hour of the swap is pickup only. Arts and craft materials only.

Donations must be fit for reuse, We'll be accepting donations on Friday, April 17 in the Cranford Community Center.

Kids Get Growing

Thursday, April 30 from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Children ages 7-12 are invited to a planting program. Registration is required.

Pet Toy Craft

Thursday, May 7 at 4:00 p.m.

Come in and cut up some old shirts and recycled materials to create simple toys for cats and dogs. No pets? We'll donate to an animal shelter for National Pet Month! We'll also be accepting pet food donations at this event. For children ages 7+, no registration is required.

Graphic Novel Book Club

Monday, May 11 at 6:00 p.m.

Fans of graphic novels and comics in grades 3-5 are invited to join us for Graphic Novel Book Club. This month we'll be reading *Lion Dancers* by Cai Tse. Registration required.

Strawberry Storytime

Wednesday, May 13 at 4:00 p.m.

Celebrate Strawberry Month with a story, craft and snack! For children ages 5+, registration is required. Strawberries will be served.

Paint Your Pet

Thursday, May 14 at 4:00 p.m.

Create a piece of art with your pet. For children ages 7+, registration is required.

Kids Can Cook

Monday, May 18 at 6:00 p.m.

Join us for National Strawberry Month as we make a strawberry centered treat. Registration is required and can be done online.

Penguin Pointers with Jenkinson's Aquarium

Tuesday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Learn their basic biology, where they live, the threats they face, how we can help them in the wild, and how we care for this endangered species at the aquarium. This program is best suited to elementary-aged children. No registration is required.

Painted Coaster

Thursday, May 21 at 4:00 p.m.

Craft a beautiful painted coaster. This project makes a great gift for Mother's Day or for your favorite grown up! Registration is required.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Romance Readers Book Club

Monday, March 9, at 7pm

Today's book is *Devil in Dublin* by B.B. Easton. If you don't want to read that book, feel free to come anyway to discuss whichever romance you've recently read.

Movie Night

Wednesday, March 4, at 7pm

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, March 5, at 6:30pm

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

Rhonda Denet and the Silver Fox Trio

Saturday, March 7 @ 2pm

This concert will feature music of "The Ladies of Motown!"

Lit Cafe

Saturday, March 14, at 10:15am

Literary Café is a book chat program. 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. Admission is free. Light refreshments provided. Attend in person or on Zoom. Lit Cafe will meet Fridays in the Summer and Saturdays in the Fall.

International Film

Monday, March 9, at 12:30pm and 7pm

The same film will be shown at 12:30pm and 7pm. Please contact the library for the film title.

Wednesday Morning Adult Craft

March 18, at 10am

Visit our website to register and for more information about this month's craft.

Trivia Night

Wednesday, March 18, at 7pm

Feel free to bring your own snacks and (non-alcoholic) drinks. Prizes awarded to the winning team. Please register.

Genealogy: An Introduction

Thursday, March 19 @ 7pm

This talk is a high level introduction about how you can start learning about your family tree for free before committing to paid services.

Theater Project

Saturday, March 21, at 2pm

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.

Books and (Coffee) Brew

Monday, March 23, at 2pm and 7pm

Coffee and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase. Registration is recommended.

Readers' Forum Book Club

Monday, March 23, at 7pm

This month's book is *Home* by Harlan Coben. Additional copies are available.



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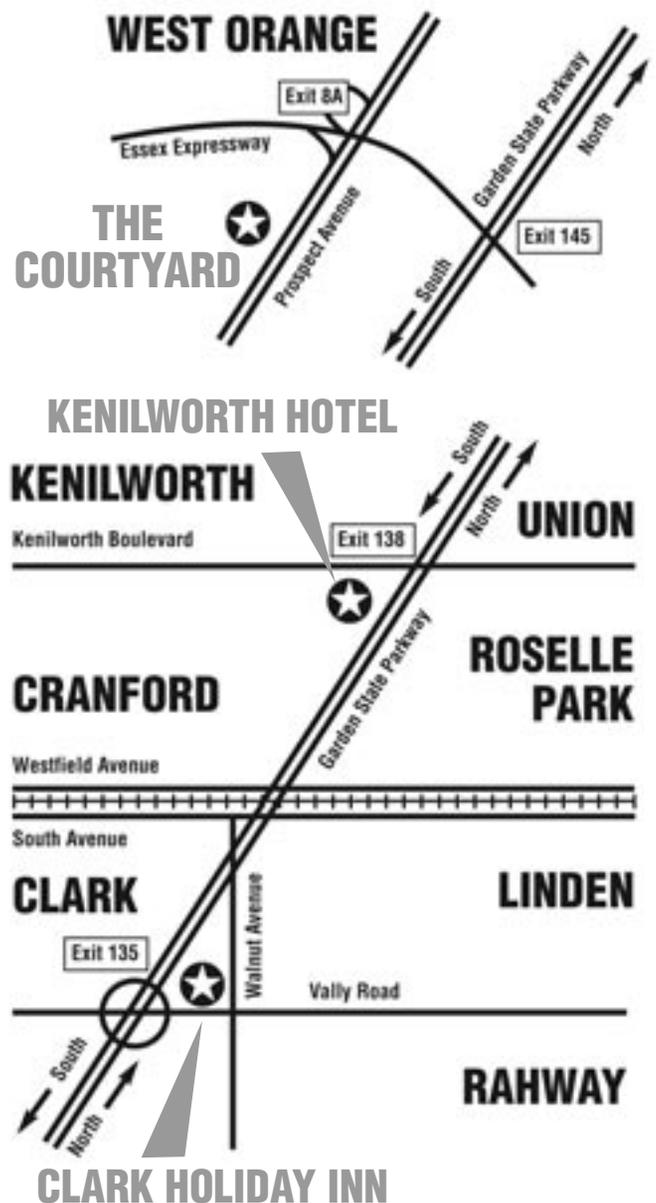
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