

CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ

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JAYCEES RECOGNIZED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Aliver Foundation

Community leaders, first responders, supporters, and volunteers gathered on January 23rd to celebrate the second anniversary of The Aliver Foundation at its annual Impact Night. The evening highlighted two years of progress focused on saving lives and helping hearts, with special recognition given to the Cranford Jaycees for their commitment to the community.

The Cranford Jaycees underwrote two outdoor AED equipment bundles to be installed at Cranford Baseball and Softball Leagues fieldhouses at Adams and Memorial Fields. These highly visible, bright yellow, all-weather, climate-controlled, tamper-proof AED equipment bundles ensure lifesaving equipment is available should a cardiac emergency happen.

The partnership between the Cranford Jaycees and The Aliver Foundation was made possible through the leadership of Cranford Police Chief Matthew Nazzaro and Cranford Fire Department Battalion Chief John Dillon, who introduced the organizations and were instrumental in bringing the collaboration together. Their shared focus on public safety helped move the project from idea to impact.

“For 70 years, the Cranford Jaycees have given back to the community in a multitude of ways,” said Jill A. Pall, founder of The Aliver Foundation. “Their commitment to empowering bystanders to take action is commendable, and we value their partnership.”

Founded after Pall survived sudden cardiac arrest in an outdoor recreation space, The Aliver Foundation works to close critical gaps in public safety by helping to place outdoor AED equipment, educating communities about cardiac arrest response, and supporting survivors and their loved ones. Since its founding, the organization has been responsible for more than 140 outdoor AED equipment bundles placed in public recreation spaces across multiple states, making lifesaving equipment accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

In addition to equipment placement, The Aliver Foundation has reached more than 1.12 million people through digital education efforts and has educated over 3,150 individuals on cardiac arrest statistics, CPR, and AED usage at more than 30 in-person events. The foundation has also provided over 4,500 hours of free peer support to more than 200 cardiac arrest survivors and their loved ones.

Impact Night also included recognition of several individuals whose dedication has strengthened the foundation’s work. Garwood resident Dylan Mason was recognized for his service as a Teen Ambassador, Luciane Raibin for her leadership on the First Responder Committee and her role with the Garwood First Aid Squad, and Jermaine Randle, Director of Roselle’s Department of Public Works, for his advocacy for outdoor AED equipment. While multiple honorees were acknowledged, the evening underscored the importance of organizations like the Cranford Jaycees investing directly in community safety.



(above) The Aliver Foundation Secretary Danielle Stewart and Cranford Jaycees Jason

Courtesy Photo

Impact Night is not a fundraiser and there is no cost to attend. The event was intentionally designed so that individuals, municipalities, first responders, businesses, and organizations can focus their resources on meaningful giving rather than event-related expenses. This year’s event was hosted at the beautiful, historic Hanson House, which generously donated the venue. Decor and refreshments were personally covered by the foundation’s founder, with beverage support provided by ShopRite Garwood.

As The Aliver Foundation looks ahead, partnerships with organizations like the Cranford Jaycees and the leadership of local first responders remain central to its mission to change the 8 percent out-of-hospital survival rate of cardiac arrest through local action and collaboration.

For more information, please visit thealiverfoundation.org.



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POLICE DETECTIVE CHRISTOPHER FOLINUSZ RETIRES AFTER HEROIC SEVEN-YEAR CAREER

Matt Siessel, President PBA Local # 52

Cranford Police Detective Christopher Folinusz, a dedicated member of the department for seven years, has retired due to injuries sustained during a police-involved shooting following a high-speed pursuit of a stolen motor vehicle on the Garden State Parkway in December 2023. After the suspect vehicle crashed, an armed suspect engaged responding officers, resulting in an exchange of gunfire. During the incident, Det. Folinusz sustained a gunshot wound that ultimately required him to retire from active service.

Colleagues and residents alike have praised his service, noting that his actions in the line of duty exemplified the highest standards of law enforcement.

In recognition of his valor during the confrontation, Det. Folinusz and his partner, Det. Ryan McSharry, received several prestigious honors. Nationally, Det. Folinusz was awarded the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) TOP COP Award. At the state level, he earned the NJ State PBA Gold Medal of Valor, the Union County 200 Club Medal of Valor, and the NJ State VFW Medal of Valor.

Locally, the Cranford Police Department presented Det. Folinusz with its Medal of Valor, along with the Line of Duty Injury Commendation, Combat Action Commendation, Life Save Commendation, and multiple



(above) Cranford Police Detective Christopher Folinusz

Courtesy Photo

departmental commendations. As he begins this new chapter, Det. Folinusz leaves behind a legacy of courage that will inspire future officers in Cranford and beyond. The community extends its gratitude and best wishes to Det. Folinusz and wishes him nothing but success in his future endeavors.

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SCOUTS TROOP 80 DOG SLEDDING TRIP/OLYMPIC BIATHLON

Submitted by Mark DelRe

Cranford Troop 80 Scouts embarked on a snowy three day trip over Presidents Day Weekend to a cabin in Hadley, New York. The trip took place from Friday, February 13 -



Scouts shooting rifles during biathlon.

Photo Credit: William Ortega

Monday, February 16. On Saturday, scouts participated in snowshoeing and Olympic-Style biathlon (Cross country skiing/Rifle shooting) and on Sunday there was a quarter mile dog sledding ride in Sharon Springs, New York. The scouts had a great time on this adventure, and despite preparing for extremely cold temperatures, the weather turned out to be perfect for spending two full days outside. "I really enjoyed the rifle shooting part, as well as the dog sledding," said Life Rank Scout Steven DelRe.

The Biathlon was run by the Sara Toga Biathlon club and had scouts rotate in groups of three through an olympic cross-country skiing trail, taking hikes in the snow using snowshoes, and firing Olympic style rifles. The timing of this trip was perfect with the Winter Olympics.

The dog sledding on Sunday was run by Kate Walrath and gave the opportunity to learn about and meet the musher dogs that rode them across the sledding trail. Scouts were taught about sled education and safety before taking turns riding on the groomed trails. To end this event, Scouts participated in a team building exercise by pulling the sled along the trails themselves in a race.

Troop 80 is chartered by the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, which is located at 11 Springfield Ave. The troop meets on Mondays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. and organizes monthly camping and hiking trips for the weekends. If you have an interest in learning more about Scouting, please come by, or email us at troop80registrar@gmail.com.



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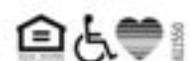
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CODY DECOONS AWARDED GRANT TO LAUNCH “SPORTS SITTERS”

Haughey Brothers Landscaping has announced the recipient of its annual Haughey Brothers Young Entrepreneur Grant, awarding \$2,500 to help a local young entrepreneur launch a business idea. Cody DeCoons, a 14-year-old Cranford resident and Hillside Avenue School student, is this year’s winner. The grant will support the launch of his venture, Sports Sitters.

The grant was created by brothers Ethan and Devin Haughey, founders of Haughey Brothers Landscaping, to encourage young people to explore entrepreneurship and turn their ideas into real businesses.

The brothers’ own story began when they were just 12 and 14 years old. One fall afternoon after school, they went door-to-door in their neighborhood offering leaf raking services. During the winters, they returned with shovels to clear snow. Over time, they expanded their services, improved the experience for their customers, and grew what began as a neighborhood side job into a full landscaping company that now transforms outdoor spaces across the community.

Cody will launch Sports Sitters this spring, a program that connects younger athletes with student mentors who can help them develop sports skills, build confidence, and have fun through positive role models. Sports Sitters will offer one-on-one sessions at home or at local parks, as well as small group clinics and birthday



(above, l-r) Devin Haughey, Cody DeCoons, Ethan Haughey

party events focusing on Basketball, Soccer and Football.

Cody’s idea for Sports Sitters grew out of his own journey in sports after moving from Manhattan to Cranford in sixth grade. Growing up in New York City, he had limited opportunities to participate in organized sports. Starting later than many of his peers, Cody relied on the mentorship of local high school and

college athletes who helped him develop the skills and fundamentals he had missed.

“When I moved to Cranford from Manhattan, some local high school and college athletes took the time to help me learn different sports,” said DeCoons. “They made a huge impact on me, and they’re still part of my life today. Sports Sitters is my way of giving back by being that same kind of role model for younger kids in our community.”

Cody first discovered his passion for working with kids in fifth grade while helping at a soccer camp. Since then, he has gained experience through babysitting and recently interned as an Assistant Flag Football Coach with i9 Sports, working with children ages 5–10. This year, Cody was also selected for the Hillside Avenue School Peer Leader Team, where he mentors elementary school students and continues to develop his leadership skills.

COMMUNITY LAUNCH EVENT

Meet Cody and the Sports Sitters team at a free community event on Friday, April 17 at 5:30 PM. Families can get a sneak peek of what sessions are all about with warm-ups, drills, and scrimmages. Giveaways and snacks will be provided.

RSVP: SportsSittersNJ@gmail.com
 Location will be shared closer to the event.
 Follow them @SportsSittersNJ website:
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(above) Gerard Paradiso Scholarship qr code.

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The Friends of the Cranford Public Library is pleased to sponsor the 2026 Gerard Paradiso Scholarship. This \$1,000 scholarship is available to a Cranford resident or an employee of the Cranford Public Library who is currently pursuing or plans to pursue a graduate degree in library and information science, media studies, or school library media specialization.

Named in honor of former Friends of the

Cranford Public Library President Gerard Paradiso, the scholarship is awarded based on merit and is not need-based. Applicants must provide proof of acceptance or enrollment in an accredited university, one letter of reference, and a personal essay. The application deadline is May 1, 2026.

To apply visit cranfordlibrary.org or scan QR code.

USED BOOK SALE

Friends of the Cranford Library

Join us Thursday, April 23 - Saturday, April 25, 2026 for our Friends of the Library Used Book Sale in the Book Cellar.

The Friends of the Cranford Public Library are thrilled to invite you back to a Book Sale in the Friendly Book Cellar from Thursday, April 23 - Saturday, April 25. Browse through thousands of books at low prices. We have a huge number of books so we will be restocking the shelves each day. Bag day is Saturday, and we provide the bags. Cash or check only please. This sale is open to all; registration is required. Register at cranfordlibrary.org. Please only register for 1 session per day.

These are the hours:

Thursday, April 23, 1:00 - 8:00

Friday, April 24, 10:00 - 4:00

Saturday, April 25, 10:00 - 4:00

PEER-TO-PEER TUTORING PROGRAM

Friends of the Cranford Library

Dr. Mylissa Bauman, member of the Friends of the Cranford Library, has started a peer-to-peer tutoring program available for high school students, enrolled in both public and private schools. All tutoring will take place at the Cranford Public Library, by high school student volunteers for their peers in grades 9-12. There is no cost for all tutoring services. To become a volunteer tutor, to request tutoring or to learn more about the program, please contact Dr. Bauman at CranfordLibraryTutoring@gmail.com. Tutor Request Forms and Volunteer Tutor Applications are also available at the Cranford Public Library. This program is made available through the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.



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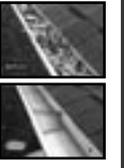
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250 REVOLUTIONNJ HOLDS FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

Cranford Township officials held a Flag Raising Ceremony on March 1, 2026. The Cranford 250 RevolutionNJ Flag is proudly flying in front of the Municipal Building in

celebration of the founding of the United States of America. The flag raising ceremony featured a combined Color Guard including the Sons of The American Revolution (SAR) and the Color

Guard from Cranford's VFW Post 335, local scouts, and a bagpiper. This event kicks off many more activities planned this year celebrating the founding of the United States of America.



(above) Township officials, Cranford's 250 RevolutionNJ Committee, and members of the Sons of The American Revolution celebrated the anniversary of the nation's independence with a flag raising ceremony on March 1, 2026.

Courtesy Photo

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TOWN-WIDE GARAGE SALE -APRIL 25

Project Home of Cranford is excited to announce its Spring 2026 Town-Wide Garage Sale, scheduled for Saturday, April 25, with a rain date of Sunday, April 26.

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

Online registration is required and will remain open through Tuesday, April 21. To register, visit the Project Home of Cranford website at projecthomeofcranford.org, and click on the Fundraisers tab. For mail in registrations send a check made out to Project Home of Cranford for \$25 and include your name and address of the sale and brief list of items you will be offering for sale. Mail in registrations need to be postmarked by April 16.

The full list of participating addresses and sale highlights will be published the evening of Friday, April 25.

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

250 YEARS OF REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT

The Cranford 250th Anniversary Committee

The birth of American independence did not happen only in Philadelphia or on distant battlefields, it also happened here in Cranford.

Two hundred and fifty years ago, as the Continental Congress debated liberty and self-government, General and future President George Washington's Continental Army and local militia relied on Cranford as a vital stronghold in the struggle for freedom. Our town became a strategic hub for training, supplies, and troop movement between New York and Philadelphia, helping sustain the fight against the British Empire at a critical moment in our nation's birth.

But Cranford's role in our country's birth was not only strategic, it was and is deeply personal.

Ordinary citizens transformed their homes into makeshift hospitals and shelters for wounded soldiers. Families shared what little they had with men who had sacrificed everything for the cause of independence. The streets of Cranford once echoed with the footsteps of soldiers and the quiet courage of neighbors who chose patriotism over comfort and safety.

Today, much of Cranford's Revolutionary history has faded from memory. Yet as America approaches its 250th Anniversary, a renewed effort is underway to bring that story back to life. In recognition of this milestone, ordinary citizens like those of the American Revolution, have once again volunteered to recognize this significant milestone for our country and for Cranford. The 250th Committee was established to honor our past, educate our community, and inspire future generations to understand the role Cranford played in shaping the United States. The Revolutionary spirit of Cranford's citizens from 250 years ago is embodied yet again in 2026.

This year-long celebration is not simply about marking a date on the calendar. It is about remembering who we are and how we came to be. It is about honoring the courage of the men and women who stood on the front lines of liberty and ensuring their sacrifices are never forgotten.

The Cranford 250th Anniversary Committee has organized a series of events that invite

residents of all ages to step into the story of the American Revolution and Cranford's role in birthing America:

MARCH 1: FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

At Municipal Building

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By Dr. Jonathan Sassi, 1:00 PM, Community Center, cosponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution

APRIL 21: "NEW JERSEY AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION" PRESENTATION

By Kean University Professor Jonathan Mercantini, sponsored by Friends of the Library, 7:00 PM, Cranford Community Center

MAY 2: PRESENTATION ON COLONIAL TAVERNS

By Michael Gabrielle, sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1:00 PM, Cranford Community Center

MAY 14: CONCERT OF PATRIOTIC MUSIC

By Florian Schantz Jazz Combo, sponsored by Friends of the Library, 7:00 PM, Cranford Community Center

JUNE 2: THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE: AMERICA'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

By Joel Farkas entitled . Mr. Farkas will explore its creation, significance, and its impact on American history. 7 PM, Cranford Community Center

JULY 4: AMERICA 250TH CELEBRATION PARADE

12:00 PM, starting at the Library on Walnut Avenue

These events are more than lectures and ceremonies, they are an invitation to walk in the footsteps of patriots, to learn the stories that unfolded on our own streets, and to celebrate the enduring spirit of freedom that still defines Cranford today.

As our nation prepares to commemorate 250 years of independence, Cranford proudly reclaims its place in that story. The Revolutionary spirit that once fueled a fight for liberty still lives here — in our community, our history, and our shared commitment to remembering the sacrifices that built this nation.

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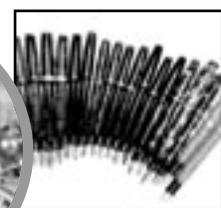
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FIDDLER ON THE ROOF COMING IN MAY

The final production of the 107th season at CDC Theatre in Cranford will be the wonderful musical Fiddler On The Roof. The multi-award-winning tale of Tevye the Dairyman and his family's struggles in a changing Russia is a true musical theatre "tradition."

Premiering on Broadway in 1964, it became one of the longest-running shows of its time. Featuring memorable songs like "Tradition," "If I Were A Rich Man" and "Sunrise, Sunset," this beloved work explores the universal human struggles of tradition and change, family love, generational conflict and displacement and migration. Using strong cultural storytelling to blend serious social issues with music and humor, Fiddler on the Roof is a poignant exploration of family, community, and the enduring human spirit in the face of adversity.

Director Emma Taylor Schwartz, a Cranford native, shared "This is my fifth production of Fiddler, and I only love it more and more each time. You could call me a superfan. What a gorgeous show that is both classic and contemporary, with nuance in every scene. It is a non-traditional love story, one that features romantic love, but also love of culture, love of community, love of family and love of identity. I've always resonated with the story and find that anyone of any background can find something to relate to. You don't have to be Jewish to connect with it on a deep level. If you have or had a parent, a child, a family, or a community,

you'll relate to these characters."

Continuing a new program at CDC Theatre, the final performance on May 17th will feature a talented quartet of ASL interpreters. ASL interpreters in theatre do more than translate dialogue; they bring the emotional and artistic essence of a performance to Deaf audiences, making live theatre a truly inclusive experience. While making the performance accessible to Deaf and hearing-impaired audiences they are also performers in their own right, contributing artistically to the performance and we are pleased to welcome them back to CDC Theatre.

The show will run from May 1st through the 17th with 8pm curtains on Fridays and Saturdays and 2pm matinees on Saturday the 9th and Sundays May 10th and 17th.

The company will be led by Larry Brustofski as Tevye and Elle Michaeli as his wife Golde. Their older daughters will be played by Gabrielle Traub (Tzeitel), Katherine Hope Stelma (Hodel), and Nina Randazzo (Chava). Mark Zebro Jr is Lazar Wolf, Bill Geltzeiler, Max Kopla and James Hahn will portray Motel, Perchik and Fyedka. Lori Travers and Rachel Love, Fruma Sarah and Grandma Tzeitel with Gloria Schnure taking the part of Yente.

Visit cdctheatre.org for more details and ticket information. These performances are made possible by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.



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Fri/Sat. May 1,2,8,15,16-8pm
Sat. May 9/Sun. May 10+17-2pm

78 Winans Ave
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Made possible by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts



cdctheatre.org
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Based on Sholem Aleichem stories by special permission of Arnold Perl Produced on the New York stage by Harold Prince Portions of the original choreography reproduced by Emma Taylor Schwartz Fiddler On The Roof is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com

LIBRARY APRIL PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

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Junk Journaling

Thursday, April 2, 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.

Romance Readers Book Club

Monday, April 6, at 7pm

Visit our website for this month's book. 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 read.

Movie Night

Wednesday, April 8, 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.

Lit Cafe

Saturday, April 11, 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.

International Film

Monday, April 13, 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.

Tea Tasting and Lecture

Monday, April 13, at 7pm

Join local resident Catherine Felegi for an engaging workshop celebrating tea's thousands-year-old story. You'll uncover fun and surprising facts, learn how tea is produced, explore its possible wellness benefits, and learn how to brew a truly excellent cup. Please bring your own cup! Space is limited and registration is required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.

Adults Create

Tuesday, April 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.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Wednesday Morning Adult Craft

April 15, 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 Library.

Trivia Night

Wednesday, April 15, 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.

Theater Project

Saturday, April 18, 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. No registration needed.

Community Art Swap

Saturday, April 18, from 10am-12pm

Help us divert materials from landfill while encouraging environmentally friendly creation at our annual Community Art Swap! Bring new or gently used arts and craft materials to the Community Center and swap them for something new on Saturday, April 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Everyone—whether they have a donation or not—is welcome to drop in from 11:00 to 12:00 p.m. to pick up whatever they'd like. The last hour of the swap is pickup only, please do not bring donations after 11:00 a.m.

Matcha Paint and Sip

Monday, April 20, at 7pm

Join us for a fun, instructor-led evening of watercolor painting using espresso and matcha powder at The Morning Roast (@YTB). All supplies provided. Coffee and other non-alcoholic beverages are available to purchase at

The Morning Roast. Space is limited; registration is required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.

New Jersey in the American Revolution

Tuesday, April 21, at 7pm

Join us for this engaging lecture presented by Professor Jonathan Mercantini of Kean University. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library and in partnership with the Township Rev 250 Committee.

Books and (Coffee) Brew

Monday, April 27, at 2pm and 7pm

Join us for our monthly book discussion at The Morning Roast! Coffee and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase. Registration is recommended and can be done through the Library website. Today's book is Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell.

Readers' Forum Book Club

Monday, April 27, at 7pm

All are welcome to join this book club! Additional copies are available at the Circulation Desk.

Restless: How to Stop Living an If-Only Life

Wednesday, April 29, at 7pm

Join us for an author talk and workshop with Cranford resident, Kristen Mosier, LMFT! Please visit our website to register. Kristen's new book, Restless: How to Stop Living an If-Only Life, will be available to purchase thanks to The Cranford Bookstore.

Senior Tech 1:1 Appointments

Tuesdays, between 1 and 2:30pm

Sign up for a 15 or 30 minute session and ask one of our librarians your tech questions! Feel free to bring your phone, tablet or other device. In partnership with Cranford Community Center. Registration is required.



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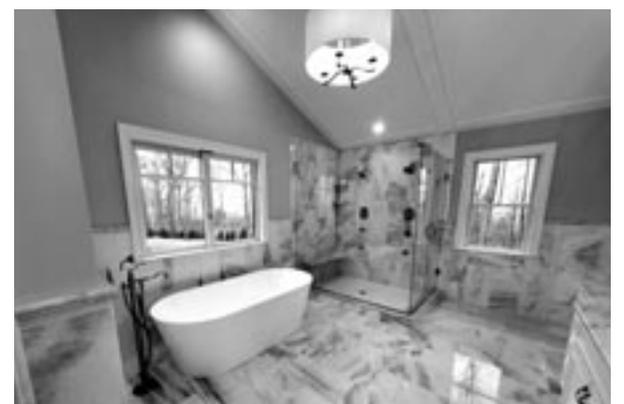
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MOBILE MEALS ANNUAL APPEAL

Mobile Meals of Westfield's new President, Solange Bueno, continues the non-profit organization's annual appeal solicitation to raise capital from supporters and organization volunteers to help fund the food program for those individuals unable to prepare or shop for food for themselves. Mobile Meals has served the communities of Clark, Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield in providing hot, affordable, prepared meals delivered to client residences since 1968. The non-profit receives no government funding and relies on contributions from donors and grants to sustain the cost of food and operations.

Mobile Meals of Westfield continues to seek donations from the community now. A \$55 donation will provide lunch and dinner for one person for one week. A \$220 donation provides lunch and dinner for 20 people. Donations in any amount are most sincerely appreciated.

For anyone interested in donating to Mobile Meals of Westfield, please call 908-233-6146, or visit mobilemealsofwestfield.org/donate, or scan this QR code.



OPERA AT FLORHAM PRESENTS REVENGE, ROMANCE & REVELRY

Sunday, April 12th, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Opera at Florham proudly presents *Revenge, Romance & Revelry: Scenes from Die Fledermaus*, an afternoon concert on Sunday, April 12th, 2026 at 2:00 PM at Lenfell Hall, The Mansion at Fairleigh Dickinson University (285 Madison Ave, Madison, NJ 07940).

This performance features a stellar cast: Soprano Abby Brodnick as Adele, Soprano Molly Dunn as Rosalinde, Mezzo Soprano Victoria Falcone as Prince Orlofsky, Tenor Eric Šebek as Alfred, and Heldentenor Tom Walters as Eisenstein.

WHY YOU CAN'T MISS IT

Revenge, Romance & Revelry: Scenes from Die Fledermaus presents highlights from Johann Strauss II's beloved Operetta, taking audiences back in time with a farce filled with love, laughter, wit, disguises, and deception amidst a glamorous masquerade ball. This concert is performed in the elegant, intimate setting of Lenfell Hall at The Mansion on the campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University, a stunningly perfect setting for a piece filled with such glamour.

Experience an enchanting Sunday afternoon performance filled with witty dialogue, alluring melodies, and a cast of captivating performers who bring the story to life right in front of your eyes – an afternoon you won't want to miss!

Tickets are \$30 for General Admission, with discounted tickets available for students. Visit operaatflorham.org for tickets and more information.

- ADA Accessible
 - Free Shuttle from Parking Lot 8 at Fairleigh Dickinson University 285 Madison Ave, Madison, NJ 07940
- Founded in 1982, Opera at Florham is northern New Jersey's premier Opera company, presenting annual concerts, the International Vocal Competition, and Opera Talk educational series.



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PRESENTS

Revenge, Romance & Revelry: Scenes from Die Fledermaus



**Sunday, April 12, 2026
2:00 pm**

**Lenfell Hall, The Mansion
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Madison, NJ**



**\$30 General Admission
Tickets & Information**
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YOUTH FISHING DERBY - APRIL 11

The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club's Annual Youth Fishing Derby will be held on Saturday, April 11, 2026 at Echo Lake Park in Westfield, NJ. The event is free for children under 16, and \$10 for adults who wish to participate. Monies from this derby is used for stocking in 2027 and adult prizes. Sign up will start at 6:30 a.m. and will end around 2 p.m. Prizes will be awarded at 1 p.m. to all children present. Grand prizes and Adult prizes will be awarded at our June meeting. Sign up can be in-person at the lake, on line at nbfcc.org.

Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club was founded in 1907 and is one of the oldest clubs in the nation. As a 501(c)3 we provide outings to support veterans, adults and children as well as people with disabilities which focus on environmental education, fishing knowledge and practice. We are always looking for new



members, donations and volunteers if anyone would like to get involved. Our monthly meetings are held at the Kenilworth VFW, located at 33 S. 21st. Street, Kenilworth, NJ, On the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (except July & August). There is no fee for attending a meeting. For more information visit nbfcc.org or contact Bob Jones bjonesrjn@hotmail.com or 908-403-0787.

42ND ANNUAL QUILT SHOW - APRIL 11

Harvest Quilters of Central NJ will present their 42nd annual Quilt Show on Saturday, April 11, 2026. Sharing the Quilts 42 will be held at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$3 for children under twelve.

At 10:30 a.m., Katherine Evans will present "My Journey - Stitching Together an International Community of Quilters." Evans' talk will cover her years living in Brazil, Costa Rica and Mexico from 2007 to 2025. She'll highlight her outreach to local women who together developed sewing and design skills creating one-of-a-kind group quilts, many of which will be on display.

Wendy Sheridan of Rahway will be recognized as 2026's Featured Quilter.

Sheridan is an award-winning multidisciplinary artist whose work spans fiber, watercolor, ink, and acrylics. With a lifetime of experience in fabric and fiber arts, she has created quilts, housewares, and costumes, serving as costume mistress for the Union County Academy for the Performing Arts from 2008-2012.

Her fiber art installation "What We Did This Summer," in collaboration with Lauren Reidy, has been on display at the New Jersey Transit Rahway station in the fall/winter of 2025-2026. "I love bold color, an explosion of color shows up in all my art forms," said Sheridan, a retired electrical engineer and technical writer.

Local charities will benefit from drawings for a traditional queen-sized quilt with a modern flair, gift cards and craft themed gift baskets.

In addition to viewing a full array of modern, traditional, art and wall-hanging quilts, attendees can participate in viewer's choice awards, kid's crafting table and vendor sales area.

A tearoom offering lunch, snacks, homemade baked goods, and beverages will benefit Willow Grove Church programs.

For additional information, please contact harvestquilters.com or with questions email: harvestquiltersnj@gmail.com.



(above) Featured Quilter, Wendy Sheridan of Rahway

Courtesy Photo




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OVER \$45,000 IN GRANTS AWARDED TO CRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Cranford Fund for Educational Excellence

The Cranford Fund for Educational Excellence (CFEE) has awarded more than \$45,000 in grants to the Cranford Public Schools for the 2025-2026 school year, providing new educational resources for every school in the district and supporting the full range of educational priorities—from math, literacy, and problem-solving skills to STEM programs, career exploration, and more.

The Board of Education formally accepted the grant funds from CFEE at its meeting on Monday, October 27, where Superintendent of Schools Dr. Scott Rubin and board members expressed gratitude.

CFEE is a Cranford-based nonprofit, independent of the school district, that raises money in the local community to provide new learning opportunities and innovations in the township's schools. Educators apply for CFEE grants that meet one of five goals: enhancing classroom design; supporting personalized or differentiated learning; creating "makerspaces" for tinkering and problem solving; introducing new classroom technologies; and supporting one or more of the school district's goals, such as advancing diversity and inclusion initiatives or community partnerships.

Funding for the grants came from donations as well as CFEE's 8th Annual Trivia Night fundraiser, held in February at the Kenilworth VFW. More than 250 people attended, with 27 teams vying for the championship. CFEE was proud to feature 41 businesses, organizations, and families who supported the event with sponsorships ranging from \$150 to \$5,000.

21 PROJECTS WERE FUNDED THIS YEAR:

- Intergenerational and Interdisciplinary Book Club (Cranford High School): Copies of books for a club that brings together students and community members to discuss local, national, and world issues and foster a culture of reading. Applicant: Emma Hooks; developed with colleagues from the English department
- SEL Group Counseling for Grades K-5 (Districtwide): Resources for 10-week small group counseling program that supports students' social, emotional, and behavioral development. Applicant: Grace Rivetti
- Yoga for Students with Autism (Hillside Avenue School): Yoga program to promote self-regulation, focus, and participation in group activities. Applicant: Lauren Fernandez
- Foundations First: Building Number Sense in Grades 1-2 (Districtwide): Math program offering differentiated support to students at an age that's critical for developing math skills. Applicant: Evan Levy
- Literacy Backpacks - Family Adventures in Reading (Districtwide): Take-home backpacks in elementary schools containing books, journals, and other supplies to promote literacy and shared reading experiences at home. Applicant: Susan Ritter
- Stitching the Spirit of '76: A 250th Anniversary Community Quilt (Districtwide): Supplies to help students create quilt squares reflecting their personal understanding of what America means to them. Applicant: Gabrielle Rendek

- Respect Recess—Enhancing Engagement and Positive Social Interactions at Bloomingdale Avenue School: Games and equipment to foster cooperative play, conflict resolution skills, and a more inclusive environment during recess. Applicants: Ron Litz and Lauren Biggiani
- LEGO Education SPIKE Essential Classroom Sets for Grade 4 District-Wide STEAM: Robotics and building kits that support fourth-graders' literacy, math, and problem-solving skills. Applicant: Rachel Kim
- The Creative Mindset Literary Project 2025 (Orange Avenue School): Production of a publication that celebrates the literary works created by students with learning disabilities. Applicant: Thais Jackson
- 21st Century Rewriteable Boards (Boogie Boards) (Orange Avenue School): Eco-friendly, reusable, versatile writing tool that helps students engage with lessons in a fun way and limits the need for whiteboard markers and other supplies, cutting down on waste. Applicant: Karyn Madara
- Innovations in Classroom Design (Cranford High School): Supplies for creating a small version of a house's exterior wall for teaching students basic construction skills. Applicant: Daniel Brown
- Flexible Seating for Inclusive Learning in a Special Education Classroom (Hillside Avenue School): Wobble stools, standing desks, and other less-restrictive types of seating that help students with learning challenges stay focused and engaged. Applicant: Salma Elmalah
- The CHS Archive Project: Preserving Our Past, Empowering Student Researchers (Cranford High School): Supplies for properly archiving and digitizing local historical materials in the school library and teaching students about preservation. Applicant: Christine Szeluga
- Write On! Empowering Early Learners Through Handwriting (Districtwide): Toolkits to help students develop handwriting skills that advance their literacy and cognitive growth. Applicants: Susan Ritter, Christine Tattoli-Rising, Christine Eulas, and Lauren Berman
- Neurology Comes Alive (Cranford High School): Devices for AP psychology classes that demonstrate how neurons function in the human body. Applicant: Frank Wagenblast
- Documenting the Creative Process in Cranford Public Schools (Cranford High School): An iPad that allows dance students to record and review their technique. Applicant: Emily Donahue
- CougarWorks Vocational Lab (Cranford High School): A hands-on system that simulates real-world work environments, helping students develop their skills and career interests. Applicants: Emma Hooks and Jennifer Barna
- Calm Minds, Ready Learners: A Regulation Room for Elementary Students (Lincoln School): A calming environment to support students in managing their emotional and behavioral challenges. Applicant: Bonnie Cimring
- 3D Printer Plastic Recycling System (Cranford High School): Equipment to reuse waste produced by 3D printers, saving money and enhancing students' environmental awareness. Applicant: Joshua Rosenblum
- Broadcast Journalism Media Center (Cranford High School): Media tables, tripod and camera, and storage cabinet to support students' collaboration on film and journalism projects. Applicant: Justin Corazza
- Podcasting Equipment for OAS and HAS (Orange Avenue School, Hillside Avenue School): Equipment to support student-led podcasts, including the eighth-grade language arts unit on investigative journalism. Applicant: Michael Seaman



(above, l-r) CFEE members Robin Yablonski, Nutan Rubinson (CFEE president), Shannon Gallo, Susan Ciccone, Dayna Sacks, and Micki Stassfurth, and Cranford schools superintendent Dr. Scott Rubin on the far right.

MORE THAN \$35,000 RAISED FOR SCHOOLS AT 9TH ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT

Cranford Fund for Educational Excellence

The Cranford Fund for Educational Excellence The 9th Annual Trivia Night organized by the Cranford Fund for Educational Excellence (CFEE) raised more than \$35,000 for new educational grants in the Cranford Public Schools, thanks to sponsors and everyone who took part in the Feb. 21 event, held at the Kenilworth VFW.

It was a joyous evening of friendly competition, laughter, and dancing, with music by E34 Events revving up the crowd. More than 300 people came, organized into 34 teams and dressed up to showcase their colorful team names, from “Cranford Craniums” to “The Brainy Bunch” and more.

All proceeds will support grants for Cranford public school teachers seeking to educate and inspire their students in new and innovative ways. CFEE grants have funded robotics, 3D printers, bulk book purchases, craft projects, media technology, math kits for hands-on learning, and more.

Schools Superintendent Mark Cantagallo took the stage early in the evening to applaud CFEE and the Cranford community’s dedication to supporting its children’s education. “I’m so humbled and grateful to work in a school district that has literally hundreds of people spending a Saturday night” at the CFEE fundraiser, he said, noting that the organization has raised more than \$400,000 in grants for the Cranford Public Schools over the past two decades. “It’s absolutely amazing,” he said.

CFEE board member Karen Bennett, the emcee, presented eight rounds of questions devised by a board committee led by Trivia Masters Barry Horbal and Robert Lukenda. Every table had a map with countries’ names to be filled in, providing another opportunity for points. The

teams earned bonus points between rounds by answering questions about videos—shown at the front of the room—that showcased the impact of CFEE grants. Teams included past grant recipients and a team of teachers, CFEE All-Stars. “Fact or Fiction” and “2025 in Headlines” were fun new categories this year, and the musical audio rounds of course had everyone singing their favorite songs by the end of the night.

A GOLD STAR FOR SPONSORS

CFEE is a Cranford-based nonprofit foundation that supports excellence and innovation in the Cranford public schools by generating resources through community involvement, and Trivia Night is the organization’s signature annual event. Funds were raised from team entry fees, a 50/50 raffle, and sponsorships. CFEE proudly featured 49 businesses and families who supported the event with sponsorships ranging from \$150 to \$5,000 going to the top sponsors:

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WINNING TEAMS ACE THE TEST

As in years past, the team winning first place gets to design their own ice cream flavor at Vanilla Bean Creamery and have their team photo displayed on a building in downtown Cranford. This year, that team is CranGPT (Christine DelRe, Matt DelRe, Christine Bove, Justin Bove, Beth Rees, Shaun Rees, Jen Lenza, Chris Lenza, Claire Cooper, Ryan Cooper).

Chris Lenza, Claire Cooper, Ryan Cooper).

Taking second place was The Brainy Bunch: John Cwikla, Jenn Cwikla, Pete McDevitt, Jaclyn Milano, Glen Milano, Faith Dzurovcik, Chris Alfieri, Hope Alfieri, Craig Allen, Carla Allen.

A tiebreaker showdown at the end helped determine the third place title, which was claimed by the team Something Topical and Clever (Mike Yablonski, Howard Lubinger, Rebecca Trump, Matt Trump, Patricia MacLean, Chrissi Konopka, Bartek Konopka, Jill Wohrle, Brian Andrews, Paul Gallo).

All winners walked away with bragging rights and a lawn sign to display proudly. There was nothing trivial about the zest and creativity of the three teams winning spirit awards:

The Class Clowns award went to Cranford Craniums: Rachel Humiston, Shaun Humiston, Allen Grosholz, Marci Grosholz, Diane Borges, Antonio Borges, Patrick Hanrahan, Stacy Craig, Carly Nguyen, Khoa Nguyen.

The Most Spirited award was spirited away by Cranford Classics: Brendan Prunty, Amanda Prunty, Steve Streicher, Joseph Kanaval, Stephanie Kanaval, Matt Adel, Sara Benish, Kathleen Reilly Streicher, Rachel Daly, D. Daly.

And the Best Dressed award was pocketed by Plaid Scientists: Sara Gutierrez, Mary O’Flynn, Mark Reilly, Erin Reilly, Mary Duarte, Jessica Mallo, Kevin Guterl, Helen Roberts, Frank Shuler, Jessica Rodin).

CFEE awards grants in categories such as differentiated or personalized education, technology integration and 21st-century skills, innovation zones/makerspaces, and classroom design. If you’d like more information or would like to contribute to CFEE’s efforts, please visit cranfordfund.org.

Thank you to all teams for participating, and congratulations to our winners!



(above) The first place team CranGPT Trivial Intelligence: Christine DelRe, Matt DelRe, Christine Bove, Justin Bove, Beth Rees, Shaun Rees, Jen Lenza, Chris Lenza, Claire Cooper, and Ryan Cooper

HIGH TEA AT AN ELEGANT ESTATE - APRIL 3

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All are invited to a Spring High Tea at the historic Twin Maples Estate in Summit on Friday, April 3 to benefit historic preservation. The event consists of two seatings at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., offering the perfect opportunity to gather family, daughters, grandmothers and friends in an elegant atmosphere with live music. The tea is coming direct from Fortnum and Mason, London and will be accompanied by classic English savories and sweets. Tickets are available at www.fortnightlyclub.org. There is a gluten free option and Twin Maples is ADA accessible.

The Spring High Tea is hosted by the Fortnightly Club of Summit, a non-profit women's organization, founded in 1893 that welcomes women from all area communities as members without sponsorship. Each year the Club has a busy calendar of events, outings and interest groups including Mah Jongg lessons. Membership is available via the website. Most recently, the Club held an exciting Murder at the

Speakeasy Mystery featuring the Without A Cue Productions theater group and a three-course dinner.

On Saturday, April 18 the Club will participate in Summit's 'Revolution Road', celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution by hosting a free lecture on 'Women and the American Revolution' at 10 a.m. at Twin Maples. Other upcoming events include a Spring planted container demonstration on April 15, a Broadway theater and lunch trip to see 'Ragtime' on April 29 and a Mah Jongg 'Sips and Apps' Party on May 7, featuring open play and lessons.

The Fortnightly Club preserves Twin Maples, offers annual scholarships and supports education, the arts and volunteerism. Twin Maples rentals are available for celebratory occasions. Inquiries are welcome at fortnightlyclubtwinmaples@gmail.com.



(above) Twin Maples Estate, Summit, N.J.



(above, l-r) Ellen Leonard of Summit, Liese Kant of Short Hills, Joyce Zemsky of Westfield

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NEW JERSEY INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA PRESENTS FREE "NATIONAL SPIRIT" CONCERT

The New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra (NJIO) invites the public to a free concert celebrating music that has inspired national pride on Sunday, May 3rd at 3pm at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in Plainfield, NJ.

NJIO's three orchestras (Prelude, Intermezzo, and Symphony) will present music by Mozart, Grieg, Vaughn Williams, and more, culminating in Sibelius's Symphony no.2.

NJIO concerts provide a relaxed concert atmosphere: no dress code, assigned seating, ticketing, or shushing. To ensure all audience members feel comfortable, NJIO offers a Concert Comfort Station in the concert lobby where attendees can borrow additional cushions, fidget toys, coloring pages and crayons, and large print program books.

This concert is the final performance for

NJIO's 2025-2026 season. Information on NJIO's summer education programs is available now at www.njio.org/summer and an announcement about the 2026-2027 concert season will be available in July.

This free concert is made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and our season sponsors: the Frank and Lydia Bergen Foundation, the Plainfield Foundation, The Henry S. and Agnes M. Truzack Foundation, Standish Foundation, and many other generous supporters. NJIO is a proud participating organization in the Families First Discovery Pass Program, a program of the NJ Departments of Health and Human Services.

EVENT DETAILS:

NJIO's Spring Concert: "The National Spirit"
Sunday, May 3rd, 2026 at 3pm
Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church
 716 Watchung Ave, Plainfield, NJ 07060
Admission: Free, no tickets required

NJIO is committed to ensuring that its programs and concerts are accessible. For more information regarding the concert or to inquire about patron services, please contact NJIO at info@njio.org, or visit NJIO's website www.njio.org

ABOUT NJ INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA:

New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra, now in its 32nd season, creates accessible opportunities for people of all ages and stages of life to joyfully participate in classical music. Recognized nationally as an Intergenerational Program of Distinction by Generations United, NJIO welcomes new members of all ages and abilities to one of its orchestras, depending on space availability – no audition required!

NJIO Spring Concert

NATIONAL SPIRIT



Free orchestra concert celebrating music that inspires national pride






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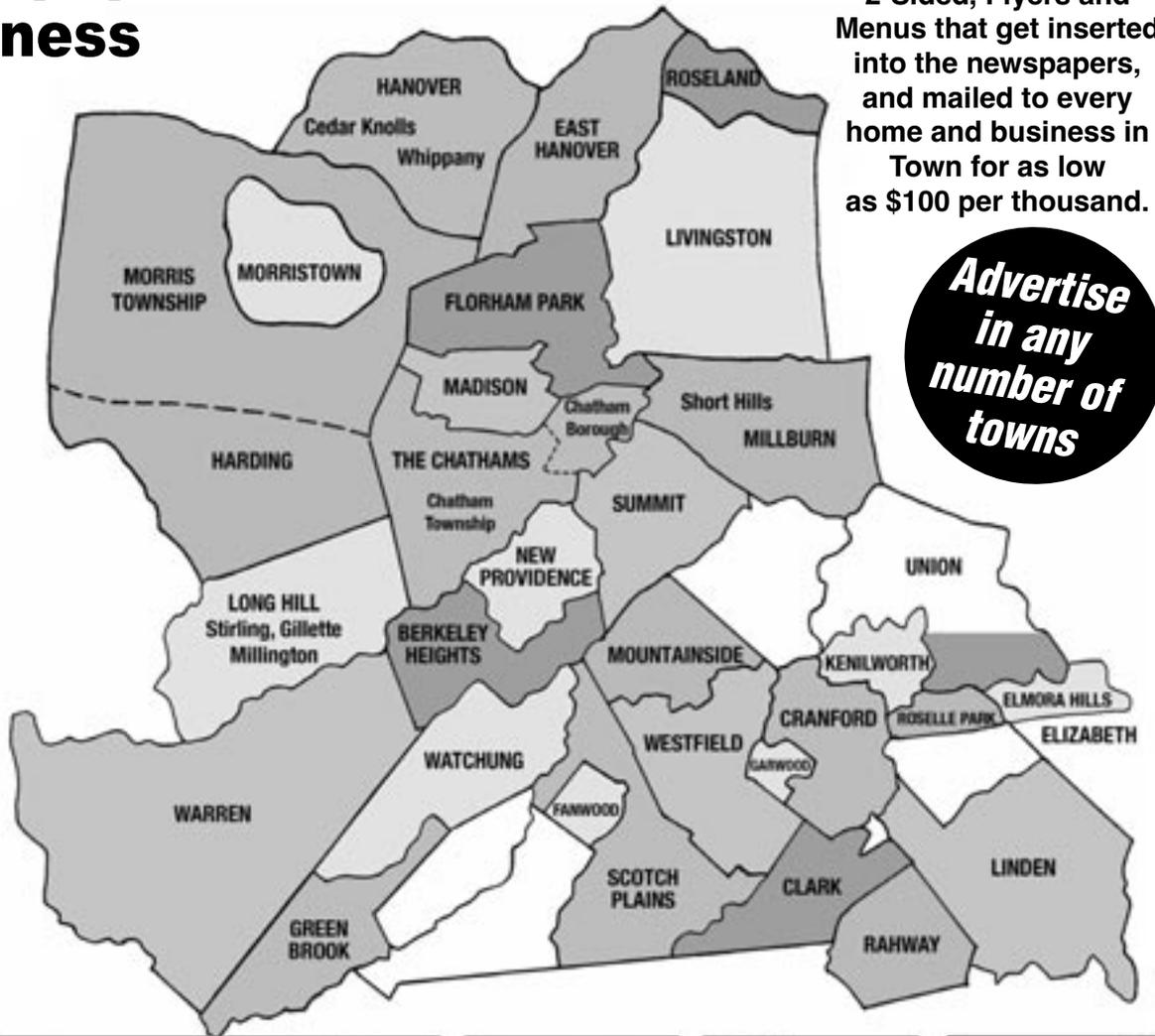
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WHAT IS THE SECRET TO LONGEVITY?

Flintlocks BSA, Inc.

Studies show that generous people live longer; and that frequent social interaction is important for longevity. Combine them and what do you get? The Flintlocks! On Thursday, February 19, 2026 they celebrated birthdays of two of their members Joe Schott at 104, and George Van Dyke, 90. Another member who is 95 was too shy. Generosity, social interaction, staying active, and doing some good in the world, help with longevity.

The Flintlocks are volunteers who get together every week to have fun and provide manpower to support Scouting. They are not associated with firearms. The name comes from an old device which is still useful, implying that they are old guys who are still useful. They maintain 3 scout camps and two scout shops, have built new buildings, repair older ones, and provide volunteer manpower for scouting activities. By keeping the camps in good shape, it enables the youth to have good experiences with outdoor activities.

The Flintlocks celebrated their 38th year anniversary of service this year. They provide approximately 6,000 hours of volunteer skilled labor at the camps and council activities every year. The Flintlocks BSA, Inc. is a 501c3 consisting of 28 retired scouters who support the Patriot's Path Council (PPC) of Scouting America, (formerly Boy Scouts of America). The PPC serves 11,800 scouts in over 300 scouting

units in five counties of northern New Jersey.

The Boy Scouts of America changed their name to Scouting America to reflect the fact that they opened membership to all youth in 2019. There are over 176,000 females in the program, and 8,000 young women have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout to date. The purpose of including girls was to include entire families in the program. The Scouting program focuses on developing good citizens, ethical conduct, learning useful skills and hobbies, exploring careers, and making lifelong friends. The website for the Patriots' Path Council is ppcbsa.org.

Cub Scouts consist of all girl Packs or all boy Packs which include children in kindergarten through 5th grade. Scouts consist of all girl Troops or all boy Troops from 5th grade through age 18. Three additional programs are coed, and go from age 14 up to age 21: Sea Scouts – which focus on learning to run ships; Explorers- which focus on specific careers; and Venture Crew - which go on high adventure trips. To find a scout unit near you, go to the website beascout.org.

The Flintlocks meet every Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Camp Winnebago, 102 Timberbrook Road, Rockaway, NJ. Guests are always welcome.

Their Facebook page show photos of their activities. Google "Flintlocks88". If interested, contact Secretary Dr. Michael Hart drmhart@yahoo.com.



(above) The Flintlocks volunteer group recently celebrated two birthdays: Joe Schott sitting behind the cake is 104, and George Van Dyke sitting next to him (with beard), is 90 years old. The Flintlocks range in age from 63 to 104, with the average age 75. Guests are always welcome.

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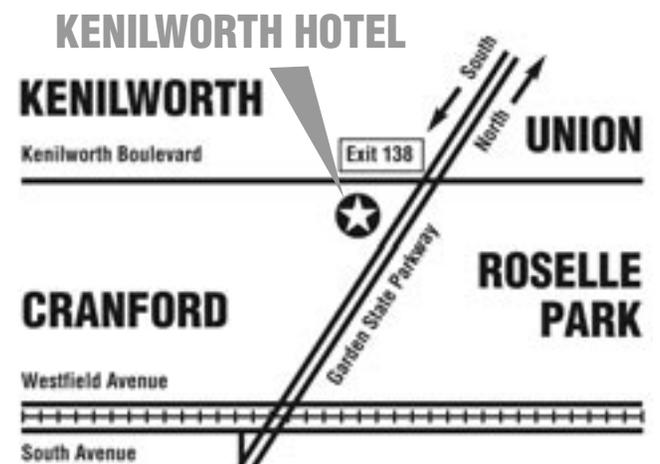
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