

CRANFORD MONTHLY_{NJ}

Published by Renna Media

Issue 5 • May 2014

CRANFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NETWORKING LUNCH

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ASHLEIGH POSZYLER FINISHES SEASON IN TOP FORM

Cranford High School sophomore Ashleigh Poszyler finished her second season on the Varsity Bowling team with a 187 average. She finished in first place for high school female bowlers in the Union County Tournament. She also placed eighth out of 250 female bowlers in the State Sectional Tournament held in Hackensack, NJ. Poszyler was also selected Third Team All Central Jersey. She also bowled her personal best high series 652 this past season.

Cranford High School's Bowling team capped a successful season by winning their conference championship in their division. The five member co-ed team is led by another sophomore Mark Coloineri who sports a 191 average. Then Ashleigh is joined by sophomore Nick Bly and senior Brandon Chan. The fifth spot on the roster is filled by Ashleigh's freshman brother Rickey. Both Ashleigh and Rickey follow their older brother Roland (Rockey), who graduated in 2009, Rocky was a four-year varsity bowler.

After the high school bowling season was over Ashleigh competed in the Jersey Lanes Youth Bowling League in Linden, NJ. It is also a co-ed league. Ashleigh finished the league season with a 181 average. The final standings for the season have yet to be determined. Her scores should put her near the top, if not the top, of the competition.



AUDITIONS FOR BUGSY MALONE, JR

Theater Project Junior's Summer Musical for Kids 8 - 18

New Jersey kids can audition for the musical BUGSY MALONE, JR, this year's presentation by THEATER PROJECT JR in Cranford. Each summer, the program takes students (ages 8 & up) through an eight week course that culminates in three performances for friends, family and the community. Auditions are being held on Saturday, June 7, and parents may schedule an appointment by emailing Mary Iannelli at mary@thetheaterproject.org. Buggy Malone Jr will run August 15-17 at the Jardine Academy, 61 Myrtle Street in Cranford. Rehearsals begin June 24th, and are held from 6:30 – 9:00 pm Tuesday thru Thursday. Tuition is \$350 with discounts for siblings.

Fifteen-year-old Cranford resident Ashleigh Poszyler, a veteran of Theater Project Jr (TPJ), says "The director (Mary Iannelli) is more fun to work with than any other I have had." Mark Lynch, also of Cranford states, "TPJ was the best acting experience I had."

Schedule an appointment by emailing Mary Iannelli at mary@thetheaterproject.org.

For more information call 908 809-8865
or visit www.TheTheaterProject.org.



Photo by Elisabeth Lynch

(above, back, l-r) The cast of SEUSSICAL, Theater Project Jr's 2013 production: Mark Lynch, Kelly McMahon, James Lynch, Ashleigh Poszyler, Dylan Randazzo, Amanda Poszyler, Tyler McMahon, Carly Mazer, Adam Kaunfer. (front, l-r) Stella Ferra, Jason Page, Timothy Burns, Nina Papapieto, Arielle Handler, Nina Randazzo, Cassidy Page, Chloe Levy, Alexis Page. (down front) Mia Papapieto

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Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (accomplishment, honor, award, etc.). Do you have an event that you need help publicizing? Then send Cranford Monthly your news!

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Email: info@rennamedia.com

ROTARY CLUB TO COLLECT USED BICYCLES

Pedals for Progress (P4P), in its continuing effort to recycle bicycles properly, will stage a used bicycle collection on Saturday, May 17, 2014, rain or shine, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Orange Avenue Pool parking lot, 1025 Orange Avenue, Cranford.

The collection is sponsored by the Cranford Rotary Club. Anyone with an adult or child's bicycle in repairable condition is urged to donate his or her bike to this worthy cause. P4P does not accept "bikes for parts" or disassembled bikes. P4P collects 5,000 to 7,000 bicycles annually.

To date, more than 140,000 have been shipped to developing countries in Latin America, Africa, and Eastern Europe. In these countries, the bikes are reconditioned by partner agencies and distributed at low cost to poor working adults. The bikes provide them with reliable transportation for commuting to work,

transporting products to market, and accessing health care and other services.

It costs \$40 to collect, process, ship, rebuild, and distribute each bicycle. Therefore, a donation toward shipping costs is necessary. (The suggested minimum donation per bike is \$10.) All cash and material donations are fully tax deductible, and receipts will be available at the collection site.

P4P is a 501(c)(3) corporation and a registered charity in New Jersey. P4P also accepts donations of working portable sewing machines, as well as wrenches for overseas shops.

For detailed information about P4P's overseas projects and a current schedule of bicycle collections, visit their website at www.p4p.org. For more information about the collection on May 17, call (908) 272-1790 or email wjmalar@yahoo.com.

FREE JOB READINESS PROGRAM BEGINS MAY 20

Project Ready will be accepting applications on the first day of its six week job preparedness program on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. Applicants should be prepared to stay until 12 pm. The program will run Tuesday through Friday from 5/20/14 – 6/26/14. The six week program is offered at no cost to people seeking to improve their skills as they search for employment. Students receive training in basic business and computer skills. Volunteer business and education professionals teach courses such as resume writing, job search techniques, interviewing, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, and use of the Internet. Please call to reserve your spot. Project Ready is located within St. Joseph Social Service Center at 118 Division St. in Elizabeth.

For more information please call (908) 353-1045 x213, email projectreadysj@yahoo.com or visit www.stjosephelizbeth.org.

DOING BUSINESS WITH THE US DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

June 19, 2014 | 8:30 am EST

June 19, 2014 | 1:00 pm EST

Liberty Hall Corporate Center

1085 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ 07083

Hosted by: UCEDC - Contact Rogers Ramsey

Email: rramsey@ucedc.com

Phone: (908) 527-1166

Website: ucedc.com/content/doing-business-us-department-transportation

This FREE program is being presented by UCEDC, a nonprofit economic development corporation that is dedicated to helping New Jersey's small business community. Agencies under the DOT include Federal Aviation Admin., Federal Highway Admin., Federal Transit Admin. and Maritime Admin. Learn how you can get started in this free briefing.

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SPRING FEVER SAVINGS FRENZY HITS LOCAL DEALER

Hundreds of Cars Marked Down to Clear Inventory

North Plainfield, NJ- Global Auto Mall, a well-known local automotive sales dealer, was hit by the first case of Spring fever this season. All the sun, and greenery has got them itching to clear their inventory and make way for new cars. With the huge surplus of brand new cars, trucks, minivans, hatchbacks and SUVs they've decided to have a Spring Fever Savings Frenzy with tons of discounts and a free 3 year maintenance plan with every purchase.

This special event will have hundreds of cars to choose from ranging from brand new models to pre-owned vehicles all priced to move quickly.



The Spring Fever Savings Frenzy will feature major brands including: Chevrolet, Hyundai, Jeep, Kia, Mitsubishi and a large variety of pre-owned makes and models.

This big event will be held at Global Automall's nearby North Plainfield location:

Global Automall, 1099 Rt 22 West, North Plainfield, NJ 07060. or Call: 1-866-645-4337 for easy directions.

The Global Auto Mall friendly and experienced Sales team has been successfully helping their customers for over 35 years without games or hokey gimmicks. They pride themselves on having the benefits of a big selection like large dealership combined with the family friendly relaxed buying

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customer. Their financing office is prepared to work with any customer's budget.

The Spring Fever Savings Frenzy is scheduled for a limited time only. Once it's over, it's over! Hurry in to Global Automall today and drive home with the vehicle you've always wanted at a price you'll love. For further information please call 1-866-645-4337, or visit www.globalautomall.com.

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POLICE OFFICERS TO HONOR FALLEN HEROES IN POLICE UNITY TOUR

Three Cranford Police officers will represent the township's police force on the upcoming Police Unity Tour bicycle ride to honor the sacrifices of police officers killed in the line of duty. Officers from around the United States will converge on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington D.C. on Monday, May 12, 2014. Lieutenant Guy Patterson and Officers Derek Farbanec and Joseph Stulpin will be the second group of Cranford officers to participate in the annual event, traveling over 300 miles by bicycle. Lt. Patterson and Off. Farbanec also participated in the 2013 event. They will depart New Jersey on Friday, May 9, 2014.

The Police Unity Tour was organized in May 1997 by Chief Patrick P. Montuore of the Florham Park Police Department, with the hope of bringing public awareness of Police Officers who died in the line of duty and to honor their sacrifices. The first event included 18 riders on a four day fund-raising bicycle ride from Florham Park, NJ to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. Over time, the event has grown to encompass eight chapter organizations consisting of nearly 1600 members nationwide.

In addition to officers representing 40 different states, participants have traveled to the event from Australia, Canada, England, India, Israel and Italy.



(above) Cranford Police Department:
Lt. Patterson, Ptl. Farbanec, Ptl. Stulpin
and Chief Wozniak

Through obtaining sponsorship and donations, officers participating in the Police Unity Tour raise funds that are donated to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF). The May 2013 event resulted in over 1.72 million dollars being donated to the NLEOMF, bringing total donations to the fund since inception to nearly 14 million dollars. The three participating Cranford officers have committed to raising over \$2,000 each through their participation in the tour.

According to Lt. Patterson, the tour represents an ongoing opportunity to challenge himself for a good cause. "It's a lot of work, but it's always

worth the effort. I think this ride is an excellent way for the three of us, and for the whole department and all of our supporters, to show respect for these fallen officers and their families." The officers have been training regularly for several months in anticipation of the upcoming trip.

Cranford Police Chief James Wozniak is an outspoken supporter of his officers' participation in the Police Unity Tour. "The Cranford Police Department is all about giving back to the community," he stated, "and whether that means our local community, our schools, or the broader law enforcement community, I will wholeheartedly commend any officers that make an extra effort to make a difference. These officers are involved in a great program for a great cause and I support them 100 percent."

DONATION LINKS:

Lt. Guy Patterson

<http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/guypatterson/2014-police-unity-tour-chapter-1>

Ptl. Derek Farbanec

<http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/derekfarnanec/2014-police-unity-tour-chapter-1>

Ptl. Joseph Stulpin

<http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/josephwstulpin/2014-police-unity-tour-chapter-1>

Mail Address for General Donations:

Police Unity Tour Chapter I, P.O Box 528, Florham Park, New Jersey 07932



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Dance Intensive for ages 13 & up



HIGH SCHOOL PROM SAFETY NIGHT RECAP

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Submitted by Ana DiGiovanni

On April 3rd, Cranford High School students and parents gathered together for an informational meeting on prom safety sponsored by the CHS PTA and Cranford Municipal Alliance. This meeting was led by Chief of Police James Wozniak, Prevention Links spokesman Michael Litterer, and Cranford Municipal Alliance leader Bill Ilaria.

Bill Ilaria warned students to make the right decisions when it comes to prom weekend and drinking. He reminded students not to “blow all of your hard work from the last twelve years in the last month of high school.” Ilaria emphasized the importance of not falling into the trap of drinking and potentially ruining what students have worked so hard for.

Michael Litterer followed up by reiterating Bill Ilaria’s points and informing both students and parents on the consequences that come from underage drinking. Litterer stated that 90% of underage drinking is in the form of binge drinking, making the consequences even more severe and dangerous. Litterer also explained that the earlier someone begins to drink, the more likely one will become dependent on alcohol. Litterer emphasized two new laws, the 911 Hold Harmless Law and the Overdose Prevention Act. Both of these laws allow two to three friends who may have taken part in underage drinking, but have been helping a friend who is in dire need of assistance, call the police to get help for their friend, without themselves getting in any trouble with the law. These laws are aimed at making sure less underage drinking tragedies occur.



Next in line to talk was James Wozniak, Cranford Chief of Police. Wozniak pointed out that kids are extremely impressionable, and that as parents, it is important to partake in “responsible consumption of alcohol.” Wozniak discussed that along with the legal consequences that both parents and teenagers face with underage drinking, there are also social implications. That being said, Wozniak advised students to “police each other.” Students must look out for each other and make sure that potentially dangerous situations are avoided. Wozniak finished his discussion by stating, “We do this because we care for you. We do this because we want to see you succeed in life.”

In addition to the discussion of illegal alcohol and drug consumption and the compromised decision making that may follow, the details of Project Graduation were discussed. Project Graduation is an alcohol and drug free celebration the night of graduation from 9:30 PM to 2:00 AM. This celebration is held at the Grand Centurion, and will be the 25th

anniversary this year. Project Graduation allows students to gather in a safe environment and to engage in a number of games and activities with their fellow classmates for one last night.

After all of the information was given on Prom Safety and Project Graduation, 25 prom bids and one free limousine service were raffled off to seniors who attended the program with a parent. A large thank you would like to be given to the following contributors: Cranford Board of Education and Dr. Gayle Carrick, Superintendent, Cranford HS PTA and Mr. Rui Dionisio, Principal, Cranford Joint Action Committee, Cranford PAL, Cranford Booster Club, Arnold’s Pest Control, Cranford PBA, Anthony Sciarillo, Esq., Cranford Municipal Alliance, Cranford Recreation Department, Cranford First Aid Squad, Cranford Clergy Council, Cranford Education Association, Prevention Links, In Memory of Starr Long, Cranford Swim Pool Utility, Cranford FMBA Local 37, and Livingston Avenue School PTA.



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The Hearing Society is pleased to announce that it is currently accepting applications to its Sarah H. McGhee Memorial Scholarship fund for the school year 2014-2015. These scholarships provide financial assistance to high school students who have documented hearing loss and have been accepted into accredited two-year colleges or vocational schools (\$2,000) or four-year colleges or universities (\$4,000). A special characteristic of these awards is that they are renewable for one to three years providing the student maintains satisfactory grades.

Application forms are available on request by contacting Mrs. P. Hanigan, Scholarship Chairperson, 1213 Wyoming Avenue, Mountainside, NJ 07092, or by calling her at 908 233 4512 (voice). Applications must be submitted no later than May 16, 2014.

The Hearing Society is a not-for-profit organization that has served people with hearing impairments in Union County since 1932. The society also sponsors a class in speech (lip) reading at the First Baptist Church in Westfield, and welcomes interested people from the area to attend. For more information about the Society, contact Alice Knecht, 908 688 8241 (voice), or online at alirobkn@aol.com.

THE CRANFORD LIBRARY

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Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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NEW JERSEY BAT SANCTUARY TO VISIT LIBRARY

The Friends of the Cranford Public Library invite children and adults to learn all about the New Jersey bat population from Jackie Kashmer, Director of the New Jersey Bat Sanctuary, on Saturday, May 10, at 11:00 a.m. in the Cranford Community Center. The Community Center is located at 220 Walnut Avenue. Admission to the program is free and all are welcome. In addition to viewing a very informative PowerPoint presentation, audience members will have the opportunity to meet two real live New Jersey bats up close and personal! Located in Hunterdon County, the New Jersey Bat Sanctuary provides rescue and rehabilitation

services for the nine species of bats found in the state. The Sanctuary also works to protect wild bats and colonies from abuse and destruction, and to increase public awareness about the benefits bats provide to the environment. Jackie Kashmer has been a wildlife rehabilitator for 20 years. Six years ago, she began to concentrate solely on bats.

For more information about the New Jersey Bat Sanctuary, visit them on the Web at njbats.org. For questions about the program, please call the Cranford Public Library at 908-709-7272 or send an email to the library at library@cranfordnj.org.

BOOKS & BAGLES

The next session of Books & Bagels, the Cranford Public Library's monthly book chat program for adults, will take place on Saturday, June 7, from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. in the library's Raddin Room.

The program format is simple. Just bring a few of your favorite reads and tell the other members of the group what you like about them. The books can be new or old, fiction or non-fiction, classic or contemporary. There is no

required reading, and you will have the opportunity to learn about books recommended by other group members. Plus, refreshments will be served, courtesy of the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.

Registration is not required. The library is located at 224 Walnut Avenue.

For questions about Books & Bagels, contact program coordinator Sally Hanford at 908-709-7272, ext. 2104, or at s-hanford@cranfordnj.org.

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RACE INFORMATION

The 35th Annual Firecracker Four Mile Run. Come out and join one of North Jersey's finest running events. A fast, flat USATF Certified scenic course with mile splits and water stops, tree lined streets and a bike trail. After the race, enjoy refreshments, music, popcorn, balloons, and face painting. Raffles will be held and prizes awarded during post race festivities. Bring the entire family to cheer you on!

Start/Finish at Nomahegan Park. Take Garden State Parkway Exit 137, turn right onto Rt. 28. Go 3/4 mile, turn right onto Springfield Ave. Go 1 mile to parking lot at Union County College on the left then walk across to Nomahegan Park. Restrooms available on premises. Directions for your GPS: **1033 Springfield Ave. Cranford NJ.**

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Competitions



PARKS & REC ANNOUNCES ADULT SUMMER LEAGUES

OUTDOOR CO-ED ADULT VOLLEYBALL

This summer's co-ed 4's grass volleyball league is made of 2 divisions, an "A" division which will be intermediate-advanced and a "B" division which will be recreational-intermediate. Each team must carry their own insurance. Team sign-up forms are available at the Community Center. League starts on Wednesday, May 21st. Games start 6:30pm. Make up games will be on Mondays. The fee is \$100 per team. Registration deadline with payment is May 9th. Games held at Unami Park. For additional information call the Community Center at 908-709-7283.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department is pleased to announce its annual Memorial Day Parade will take place on Monday, May 26th. Line up begins at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Avenue in Cranford at 8:30am and marching commences at 9:00am ending with a traditional memorial ceremony at Memorial Park on Springfield Avenue between Riverside Drive and Central Avenue at 10 am. In case of inclement weather, services only will be held at the Cranford Community Center at 10:00am. For further information, please call the Recreation and Parks Department at (908) 709-7283.

RELAY FOR LIFE WILL TAKE PLACE ON FRIDAY MAY 16, 2014 AT ORANGE AVENUE SCHOOL

The American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Cranford will take place on Friday May 16, 2014 at Orange Avenue School. This is a 12-hour long, overnight event which begins at 6:00 pm and concludes at 6:00 am. Teams have been busy raising funds at different events around town in the lead up to the event, and there are still opportunities to join in and donate.

Relay For Life is an overnight fundraising event to increase awareness and funding for cancer research. An evening of progress and hope, Relay For Life celebrates survivors, remembers loved ones lost and helps in the fight against cancer. Relay For Life is open to teams and volunteers from all towns; teams camp out and take turns walking around a track all night long making the statement that cancer never sleeps so neither will its volunteers.

During the last century, the Cancer Society has led the way in saving lives and creating more birthdays. Today, 2 out of 3 people diagnosed with cancer are surviving (for at least five years). In fact, more than 400 people a day in the US are celebrating birthdays that would have otherwise been lost to the disease. We've contributed to a 20 percent decline in cancer death rates in the US since the early 1990s. That means we've helped save nearly 1.2 million lives during that time. We've played a role in nearly every cancer research breakthrough in recent history. Our work has helped lead to a 50 percent drop in smoking since the 1960s, which has contributed to a drop in overall lung cancer

death rates.

Support the 2014 Relay For Life of Cranford by visiting www.RelayForLife.org/CrfanfordNJ and click

DONATE.

For information about the Relay For Life of Cranford and how to get involved, please contact the American Cancer Society, Contact Daniel Stermer:

daniel.stermer@cancer.org, 973-232-2574.



(above) Relay For Life volunteers held a Bake Sale outside of the Cranford Community Center on April 26th. Cranford High School juniors: Briana Assaf, Caitlin Torrico, Aleks Czyrsznic



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RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM WALKING WARRIORS



(above) Relay For Life team Walking Warriors held a fund raising car wash at Dooley's Funeral Home on April 26th.



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CLASS OF 64/65 PLANS 50TH YEAR REUNION

Cranford High School Class of 1964 & 1965 will be celebrating its 50-year reunion on October 11, 2014 from 7:00 - 11:00 pm at the Gran Centurions, Clark, NJ. Other weekend activities are planned from Friday to Sunday. The cost is \$100 per person and \$175 per couple. Please make your check/money order out to: Candy Pantano, 25 Carolina Street, Cranford, NJ 07016. Please email REUNIONCHS64@gmail.com, and visit our Facebook page, Cranford HS 64 - 65 Combined 50th Reunion, for more information. We are looking forward to seeing you in October.

DOUBT, A PARABLE AT CDC THEATRE THROUGH MAY 17

The 95th season at the CDC Theatre in Cranford comes to a close with the production of *Doubt, A Parable* by John Patrick Shanley. The Tony Award, Pulitzer Prize winning drama is the final main stage show of the theatre's 95th season and will run from May 2 through May 17. A pre-show reception was held on Saturday, May 3 at which patrons will had a chance to meet and talk with the director of the show, Gina Lupi. CDC Theatre is New Jersey's oldest Community Theatre, located at 78 Winans Ave in Cranford. Visit www.cdctheatre.org for tickets and information.

Funding has been made possible in part by the NJ State Council on the Arts, Dept. of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs



(above, l-r) Janet Aspinwall, of Edison, as Sister Aloysius and Tiffany Wilson, of Plainfield, as Mrs. Muller.

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ANTIBULLYING PROGRAM RECOGNIZED BY SPENCER BANK WITH DONATION

Is bullying on the rise or are people just talking about it more? In one large study, about 49% of children in grades 4-12 reported being bullied by other students at school at least once during the past month, whereas 30.8% reported bullying others during that time. StopBullying.gov

On behalf of Spencer Savings Bank, Vincent Spada, Cranford Branch Manager, has made a generous donation to Utterly Global Youth Empowerment, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit that maintains the belief bullying prevention is the responsibility of all community members.

Utterly Global Youth Empowerment, (UGYE), believes that giving youth a voice and providing a platform will enable them to rally the community against bullying, intolerance and social injustice. Their goal is to provide schools, youth groups, and dedicated individuals with their Anti-Bullying Club Manual without cost.

Lorrie Sanchez and Carol Blank, co-founders of Utterly Global Bullying Prevention and Utterly Global Youth Empowerment, graciously

accepted the donation and affirmed their vision to empower youth to create a bully-free environment characterized by tolerance, empathy, respect and inclusion. "No young person, or their loved ones, should have to endure the pain and agony that can come with bullying" stated Lorrie Sanchez. This grassroots effort over a decade ago to help one young boy in Cranford, NJ led to the creation of Utterly Global Bullying Prevention. The success of Utterly Global, along with the desire and commitment of those wishing to "Stand Up and Speak Out" against bullying, inspired the creation of Utterly Global Youth Empowerment.

If you would like more information about bullying visit www.antibullyingprograms.org

If you would like more information about starting an anti-bullying club visit www.ugyouthempowerment.org

Please direct questions, requests for information and presentations to info@antibullyingprograms.com or call (908) 272-0631.

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Thursday 11:00 - 10:00
Friday 11:00 - 10:30
Saturday 11:30 - 10:30
Sunday 12:00 - 9:00

JUNE 1ST 5K RUN TO BENEFIT CENTENNIAL VILLAGE DISTRICT

Cranford, NJ



Sunday, June 1



The Cranford Centennial Village Group continues efforts for improvements to the Centennial Village District.

DATE:	Sunday, June 1, 2014
RACE START:	9:00 am
WHERE:	Lincoln School 132 Thomas Street, Cranford, NJ (Corner of Lincoln and Centennial)
COURSE:	Certified and Flat – Timing by NJ Races
AWARDS:	Top 3 Male & Female overall and by age group as follows: 14 & under, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+
PRE-REGISTRATION:	Before May 16, 2013
RACE DAY REG:	Opens at 8:00 am - T-Shirts for all pre-registrants (and while they last)
FEES:	\$20 for pre-registration by May 16th (\$15 for 18 years and under) Mail-in or at runsignup.com or raceforum.com (fees apply) \$25 on race day (\$20 for 18 years and under)

For Sponsorship, to volunteer, or for further information contact: **Chiara Siliato** at cvgvelocity@gmail.com

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JOINT ACTION COMMITTEE ON UNDERAGE SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The Cranford School District's Joint Action Committee on Underage Substance Abuse, the Cranford Police Department and the Cranford Municipal Alliance have issued a first of its kind joint letter thanking parents for not serving alcohol to teens and reminding parents who have not joined the cause of the dangers of condoning or serving to children.

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Brian Gilroy - District Counselor
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Darren Tarsone CHS AD
Dr. Curt Fogas - HAS
Michelle Vella - OAS
Angelo Paternoster - WAS
Filipe Luis - LAS
Michael Klimko - BPS
Dennis McCaffery - LIN
Regina Gavin - BAS

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Rev. Brown
Pastor Kille
Pastor Croak

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Union County Asst. Prosecutor

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Cranford Joint Action Committee

132 Thomas Street

Cranford NJ, 07016

March, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Two years ago the Joint Action Committee was created to gain a better understanding of the problem of underage drinking and substance abuse and provide solutions to help protect our youth. The committee is represented by key Cranford stakeholder groups whose mission is to work collaboratively to raise public awareness about the dangers of illegal substance abuse and to identify and support activities for Cranford youth that foster healthy responsible lifestyles.

The committee has been effective in providing education about the dangers of drug and alcohol to students and parents. We have strengthened leadership program such as P.R.I.D.E (CHS peer leaders) and created new programs such as the Captain's Council (leadership programming for our athletes) and Social Norms (positive messaging) in the high school. This fall, thanks to the support of Cranford Jaycees, Knights of Columbus and St. Michael's Parish we held our first Town-Wide Family Dinner aimed at driving awareness of the importance of family dinners and strengthening our community spirit.

We are writing to thank the many parents who are supporting our '21 Means 21' efforts and do not allow or condone underage alcohol use. For those parents we have not yet reached, we invite and encourage you to join us and the greater community in striving to keep all Cranford children safe.

Parents who support our efforts realize:

- Alcoholism is hereditary. Providing alcohol to a youth with family genetics of alcoholism introduces an increased risk of substance abuse.
- Alcohol and prescription medicines do not mix. Alcohol is extremely harmful to children taking any health or behavior related medicines.
- Alcohol inhibits fears and often leads to risky behavior and unplanned sex.
- Alcohol and controlled dangerous substances limit the ability of athletes to perform to their maximum capacity and create additional on-field risks for as long as 72 hours after use.
- Teens found guilty of underage drinking or possession/use of a CDS may lose college acceptances, scholarships and federal financial aid.

We hope that you will consider these important issues in your decisions regarding alcohol and teens this spring and summer. We encourage you to become involved. There are many ways to participate including attending one of the monthly meetings held by the JAC or Cranford Municipal Alliance. You have a big influence on your children and peer parents. Please help support 'One Town, One Message.'

Dr. Gayle Carrick
Superintendent of Schools

James Wozniak
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FIRST PRES CRANFORD HOSTING CONCERT

The concert, to be held Sunday, May 4, will benefit the Harmony Scholarship Fund

On Sunday, May 4, the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Ave, Cranford will hold a fundraiser concert in the Sanctuary at 3 PM featuring the Institute of Music for Children and the H.A.R.M.O.N.Y. Band and Choir. A reception will follow the event with light refreshments. CDs of the Institute's summer performances will also be available for purchase at the event. Proceeds will benefit the Institute of Music for Children. All are welcome.

All monies raised will be donated to the Harmony Scholarship Fund, which will allow urban youth to attend the Institute who might not otherwise be able to due to financial constraints.

Institute students of many backgrounds, including Haitian, African, Brazilian, Latin American, and Malagasy, and instructors who also double as professional musicians will be performing at the concert with an arrangement of instrumentals, singing, and spoken word poetry readings.

"We really look to hire artists that are also

educators. We want instructors who are actively working as artists—acting in plays or touring in bands, but who also have a passion for working with young people," states award-winning Executive Director Alysia Souder who, in 2013, was named a Finalist for the Emerging Non-Profit Leader of the Year award from Fairleigh Dickinson University and the Center for Non-Profits.

The Institute, founded 19 years ago and officially incorporated in 2003, states that it "believes that all children, regardless of economic status, deserve high-quality arts education and provides... local families with subsidized tuition to group classes and private lessons..." After school funding was being cut, including the arts program, the Third Westminster Church in Elizabeth identified a need to have the children attend an afterschool arts program to help them flourish.

"I've heard of many kids who only get art in a cart [crayons and supplies on a cart that is

Continued on page 17

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CONCERT FEATURES INSTITUTE OF MUSIC FOR CHILDREN

wheeled around], so they don't get an art room sometimes," explains Souder. Now, "they can fill their days with music and art... A lot of kids say it's their second home and we do our best to create an environment where everyone matters, where art and music are fundamental to expressing ourselves and being who we are, and where everyone can feel safe to be who they are and contribute anything they can to that community."

The Institute of Music for Children states that it abides by the acronym HARMONY – Helping Achieve Responsible Motivated Optimistic Neighborhood Youth. Typically, the Institute develops the personal and communal potential of 600 youth. Since its founding, it has served nearly 2500 students. The program has received a Citation of Excellence from the New Jersey State Council of the Arts in 2013 for their outstanding and innovative education programs for urban youth, and is the first organization in Elizabeth to be awarded a Citation and was one

of 25 organizations in the state that year to receive one.

"It really does change lives. I hear stories every day," Souder states, explaining the story of one teen that was part of the Institute and had recently lost his father. Before he went to college, the teenager was told that he would always have a family with them. When he came back to visit the Institute, he said, "You don't know how much the Institute impacted me and changed my life," going on to explain how before, he was shy and afraid to speak. Now at college, due to the Institute, he is not afraid to talk to anyone at his school.

Souders explains, "It's not about making the next musician. It's about making stronger, happier, healthier people."

The non-profit's programming includes a summer institute, an afterschool program, collaboration with outside organizations to bring the arts out to the greater community, and the youth leadership program where teens are

trained and employed to mentor younger students. Through the youth leadership program, teens learn how to teach and serve as administrative assistants.

To learn more about the Institute of Music for Children, visit their web page at www.instituteofmusic.org or call them at (908) 469-1211.

To learn more about the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, visit their web page at www.firstprescranford.org or call them at (908) 276-8440.

ABOUT THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CRANFORD:

The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford aspires to be a strong Christian Spiritual Beacon, shining forth into the lives of those in the community. Through worship, evangelism, mission and stewardship, they celebrate the teachings of Jesus Christ in all that they do. The congregation strives to be a vibrant and unified church family through prayer, love, and fellowship.



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SOPHOMORE NIKO CAPPELLO IS 2X HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICAN

Sophomore Niko Cappello - on March 30 he traveled down to the NHSCA tournament (National High School Coaches Association) in Virginia Beach.

After wrestling in this 3 day tournament with some of the countries best wrestlers he finished in 3rd place in the Sophomore division at 160 pounds.

This makes Niko a 2X High School All-American, last year in 2013 as a Freshman Niko placed 4th at 145 pounds in the same NHSCA tournament.



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RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES SPRING FIELD HOCKEY CLINIC

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department would like to announce a new Spring Field Hockey Clinic for Girls Grades 3-8. The clinic will take place at Memorial TURF Field on Sundays, from 6:00pm to 7:00pm starting May 4th and ending June 15th. (No session on May 25th).

The fee is \$45. The clinic will be an introduction to the game of field hockey for girls who have an interest in learning basic stick skills

and game rules.

Instruction will be given by the Cranford High School coaches and players! Registered girls must supply their own sticks, shin guards, and mouth guards.

The deadline for registration is Friday, May 2nd and can be done at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. For more information please call the Recreation Department at (908) 709-7283. Cranford Residents Only.

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THE JUNIOR LEAGUE CAREER CLOSET PROGRAM IS ONE OF UNION COUNTY'S BEST KEPT SECRETS

The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield has over 200 women from throughout Union, Somerset, and Middlesex Counties that volunteer more than 1,200 hours annually to help families in crisis in Greater Union County through a number of programs. Their signature project is a women's business wear program called The Career Closet.

The Career Closet is located above The Jumble Store in Cranford and occurs every Wednesday morning (10-12) from September through May. The program partners with various agencies in Union and Somerset Counties, including The Urban League, St. Joseph's Social Services, and others. Women must be referred through a job-readiness program in order to visit the Career Closet. The Career Closet empowers local women to look and feel their best as they head out into the workforce.

During a typical Career Closet "session", the women browse through racks of business-type clothing that includes shirts, skirts, pants, jackets, and suits. There are also purses, dress

shoes, and panty hose available to go with the clothes. The end result: An outfit that the women can wear to a potential job interview and/or a meeting where professional attire is appropriate. The women walk away with 8 pieces of clothing in total that are provided free of charge.

Most women are "excited and nervous" as mentioned by Monica from St. Joseph's Social Service. But end up leaving full of confidence and the desire to succeed.

Jamie Williams, an employee of the Urban League and Instructor for the Job Search, Job Readiness program in Plainfield, "loves the program because the women who volunteer really care, they are like personal shoppers. The clothes are really nice and are very good quality. The women always leave very happy."

Lynn Kelly, co-chair of the Career Closet and member of the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield believes that volunteering, "is not really a choice; it's a responsibility born out of living a fortunate, blessed life. I have worked in Career Closet for over three years due to the



(above) Career Closet Committee

ability to have hands-on involvement with the people we are trying to serve. I enjoy that interaction with our clients."

To date, the Career Closet has dressed over a thousand of women for success in since the program began 11 years ago. To find out more about the Career Closet, how to donate clothes and accessories and how to volunteer at the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield, visit www.jlepj.org, email information@jlepj.org or "like" The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield on Facebook.



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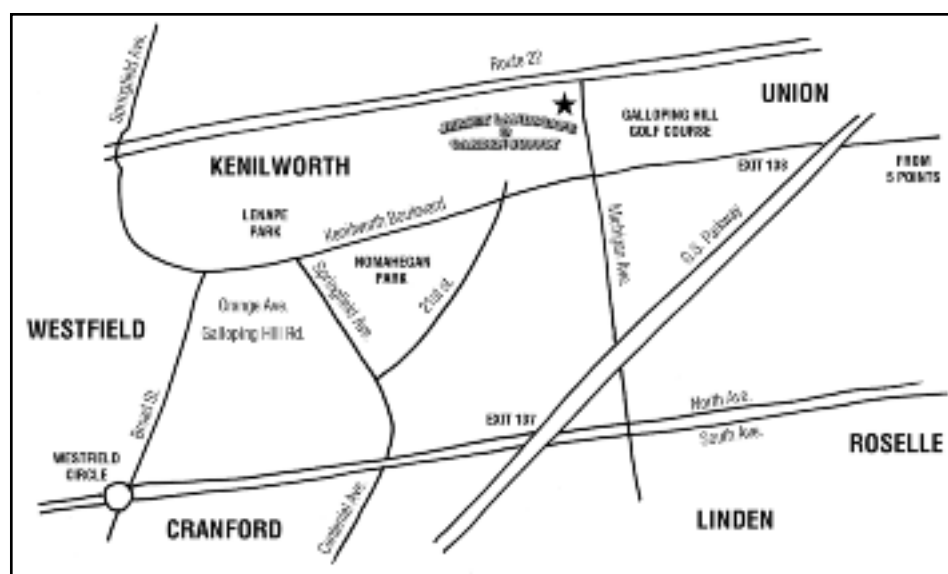
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