

# CRANFORD MONTHLY<sub>NJ</sub>

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Issue 38 • January 2017

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## DESIMONE ON TRACK TO EARN 12TH VARSITY LETTER

Cranford High School senior Isabella DeSimone is a four year varsity student-athlete in three sports, Swimming, Cross Country and Spring Track. On December 8th she signed a Letter of Commitment with Niagara University where she looks forward to continuing her stellar swimming career. Bella holds four Cranford High School swimming records, the 50m Freestyle, 200m Freestyle Relay, 200m Medley Relay, and 400m Freestyle Relay. In her Junior year, the team were the 2015 State Sectional Champs, the first time in school history. She was also part of the 200m Freestyle Relay team that broke the state record that year.

Bella was also part of the relay teams in track that set school records in the 4x100 and 4x800 relays. Along with earning four varsity letters, she also served as captain for all three sports teams.

Bella approaches her studies with the same intensity as her athletics and balances both with



(above, seated, l-r) Isabella's dad Jim DeSimone, Isabella, her mom Carolyn, and brother Michael. (standing, l-r) Brother Chaz, Varsity Swim Coach Barbara Kolesa, Boys' Swim Coach Colleen Donnelly, Varsity Girls' Cross Country and Track and Field Coach John Schiano, and Athletics Director Darren Torsone.

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(above, l-r) Lauren Byrne, Emily Wilson and Julia Reilly stand behind their friend Bella DeSimone after she signs her commitment letter to Niagara University.

community service. She volunteers with the Cranford Rescue Squad as a as a certified EMT. As a certified swim instructor, Bella coaches the summer swim team at the Cranford Swim and Tennis Club. For her, the most rewarding experience has been being the Special Olympics swim coach for the Seahawks swim team.

Niagara University is located in the town of Lewiston in Niagara County, New York. Niagara has a competitive Division I swimming program which is one of the reasons Bella chose the school. More importantly, Bella was impressed by the quality of the school's nursing program. Compared to other schools, she found that Niagara had a high number of nursing majors, like herself, on the swim team. It seemed like a perfect fit.



(above, l-r) DeSimone Family: Michael, Carolyn, Bella, Jim and Chaz.

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## CRANFORD'S FIRST UNIFIED SOCCER TEAM

The first ever "Cranford Unified Soccer Team" won the Shriver Cup Gold Medal Trophy at the Special Olympics Unified Games held this fall at Mercer County Park in West Windsor.


Coached by Sally and Mike Curci, Cranford captured the gold by defeating teams from Hazlet and Montgomery, before edging Monroe in the championship game by a score of 4-2. All four goals in the final were scored by Cranford's special Olympic athletes.

The special Olympians are: Brian Curci, Jessie Gaeta, Brian McAuliffe, Dominick Vito and Elizabeth Garcia. Their high school teammates are Andrew Rojo, Tom Curry, Matt Mederios, Matt Perino and Addison Chang.

Presented by Special Olympics, unified sports teams combine athletes with and without special needs, bringing everyone together on sports teams to train and compete side-by-side, each one an equal and meaningful part of the team.



(above) Cranford Unified Soccer Team was recognized during halftime of Cranford High School Varsity Boys Basketball game on December 22, 2016.



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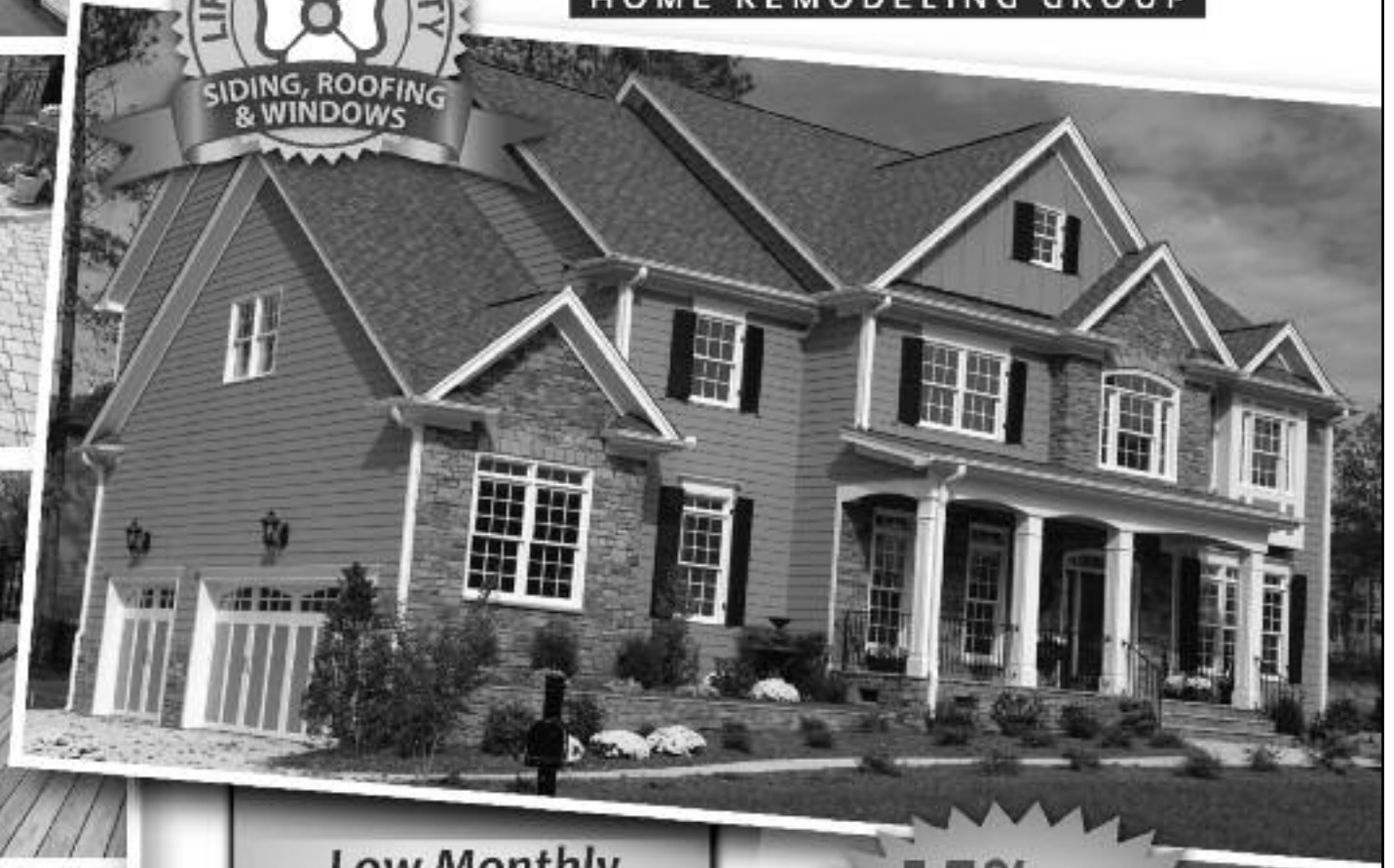


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## 11 CRITICAL HOME INSPECTION TRAPS TO BE AWARE OF WEEKS BEFORE LISTING YOUR HOME FOR SALE

Cranford NJ - According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

To order a FREE Special Report, visit [www.njhomeinspectiontraps.com](http://www.njhomeinspectiontraps.com) or to hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-888-243-5861 and enter 3002. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Get your free special report NOW to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the sale of your home.

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## NEWCOMERS CHRISTMAS CAROLERS

Moms, along with their children, strolled through Cranford on December 9th singing Christmas carols to all lucky residents who answered their door.

The moms met through the Cranford Newcomers Club.

For more information about the Club visit [www.cranfordnewcomers.com](http://www.cranfordnewcomers.com).



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## CRANFORD-ELMORA SOUP KITCHEN THROWS CHRISTMAS BASH

The Cranford-Elmora Soup Kitchen is more than a hall where the working poor of the Union County area can gather for a warm, nutritious meal on a weekly basis. It is a family that seeks to welcome guests into its warmth and make them feel at home, especially during the holidays when hunger and homelessness appear in its starkest form.

The soup kitchen boasted another successful Christmas spectacular on Sunday, Dec 20th. The Food Emporium in Garwood donated 140 boxes of assorted cookies for guests to take with them to celebrate the holidays. Guests enjoyed a bountiful meal of barbeque chicken, salad, stuffing, oranges, cake from Pinho's Bakery in Roselle, buttered bread, chocolate Santas, and candy canes. The Cranford High School Madrigal Choir, led by Anthony Rafaniello, performed Christmas carols, including having some of the guests join in on the fun. Finally, Santa visited, handing out toys to the children and taking pictures.

The Cranford Jaycees were also present to assist with the festivities. For about four years, the group has helped with delivering toys and clothing through the Union County area in conjunction with the Cranford Police Department and Fire Department. This year, they collected about 1,000 toys for various churches and organizations, including Toys for Tots and the Overlook Hospital Pediatric Burn Unit. On December 20, various clothing, including hats and scarves provided by the Cranford Jaycees in conjunction with Target in Clark, were available for guests to sort through and take. Each guest

was also allowed to take home one donated toy.

On Christmas Day, the soup kitchen was again in full swing. Sixty-four guests arrived and dined on a meal of macaroni and cheese, while enjoying the welcoming company.

The Cranford-Elmora Soup Kitchen, located at 402 Union Ave, Elizabeth, began March 12, 1989 as a simple idea – Why can't a group of people put a few sandwiches together and invite some of the hungry in for lunch? Now, the strictly-volunteer soup kitchen has served more than 100,000 hot meals to the financially distressed in

the Elizabeth area. Their basic objective is to provide nutritious meals that one would find at home in a friendly atmosphere while educating volunteers, many of them children, about teamwork and how to care for their fellow man.

The soup kitchen accepts donations of socks, full size bars of soap, tooth paste, tooth brushes, deodorant, wash cloths, face towels, and other basic essentials and funding.

The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford acts as their drop off point. To donate please contact the church at 908-276-8440.



(above) The Cranford Jaycees assisted the Cranford-Elmora Soup Kitchen this holiday season.

## NEW YEAR – NEW BEGINNINGS

By: James McGlew II, Esq.

Annual studies repeatedly show that the most common month for individuals to file for divorce is January. The reasons for this are many and varied. Most people, for obvious reasons, do not want to address emotionally charged issues over the holiday season preferring a more peaceful Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas and New Year. For couples whose pending divorce is more driven by financial considerations, and less by emotions, there can be tax consequences which relate to the timing of filing for divorce. And still others who have come to the conclusion that the dissolution of their marriage is inevitable, often times decide that a “new year” is the best time for a “new start.”

Over the course of my career as a family law attorney I have come to believe that the “best” time to make this difficult decision is when an individual is emotionally prepared and after they know that all attempts to make their marriage work have been exhausted.

On a more positive note, a recent report showed that New Jersey had the fourth lowest divorce rate (just 12.9 per 1,000 people) in the United States for 2015. Married couples in New Jersey beat the national divorce average of 16.9 per 1,000, a rate which is a 35-year low, according to the National Center for Family & Marriage Research at Bowling Green State University in

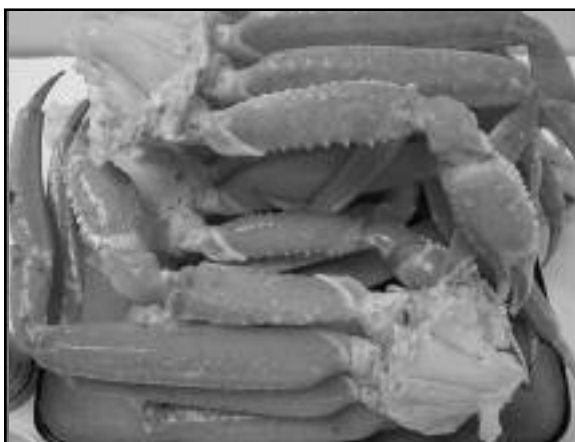
Kentucky.

The only couples more dedicated to the institution of marriage are those residing in Hawaii, Wisconsin and Rhode Island. In Hawaii, divorce rates are lowest with only 11.1 per 1,000 calling it a day, followed closely by Wisconsin (12.4 per 1,000) and Rhode Island (12.6 per 1,000). Where might you not wish to live if you want to stay together? The answer is Washington, DC which the same study confirmed had the highest divorce rate at 29.9 per 1,000. Nationwide, the divorce rate dropped significantly from 17.6 in 2014 to 16.9 in 2015 which marks the lowest rate since 1980.

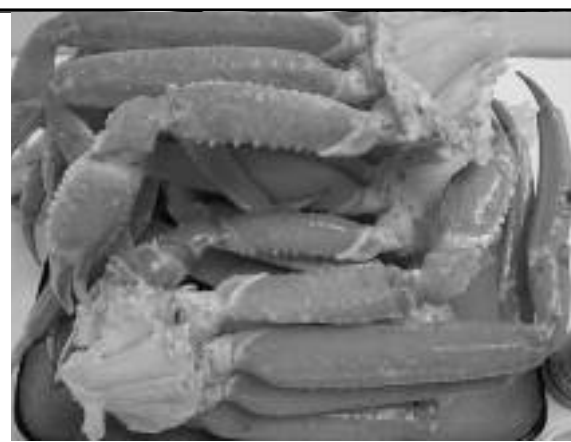
Before anyone assumes that couples are now more likely to stay together for emotional or economic reasons, some researchers say that a primary reason for the decrease in divorce may be that fewer Americans are getting married at all and those who do are getting married at an older age.

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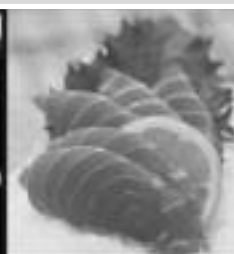
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Kids 3-6 .....\$3.99  
2 & Under.....FREE!

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## PAL HAS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SEASON

The Cranford Police Athletic League (PAL) had a busy fall season this year for its flag football, tackle football and cheerleading programs. The season began with the grand opening of a new snack stand and bathroom facility that was spearheaded by the Cranford PAL, Cranford Booster Club and volunteers John Vicci and Tony Digiovanni. Joining in the effort was the Township of Cranford and the Cranford Board of Education. Also new to the program this year was the addition of certified athletic trainers at all hosted home event days at Memorial Field for added participant safety. This fall season also marked the transition from paper-registrations to electronic-registrations as well, making [www.cranfordpal.org](http://www.cranfordpal.org) the one-stop-spot for PAL information.

At the conclusion of the fall season, the PAL Tackle Football Program, run by Tackle Football Program Director Brian McGovern, held its Awards Banquet for the 6th, 7th and 8th grade teams. This year's banquet was held on Saturday December 10th 2016 at the Garwood Westwood. The banquet's keynote speaker this year was Chuck Bell who serves as the Cranford High School Freshman Football head coach. The Cranford PAL Cheerleading Program, run by

Cheerleading Program Director Jenn Mooney, also celebrated its participants' efforts this season at an end of the year party at Costa's Restaurant in Roselle Park. Lastly, PAL Flag Football Director Jim Kwiatkowski reported that the introductory football program for Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders was a well-attended success. PAL Executive Director Matt Nazzaro applauded the collective effort by all directors. "The Cranford PAL is driven by a force of dedicated volunteer parents, police officers, and community stakeholders", he said. "I want to thank the Program Directors and their respective volunteer staff for the time and energy they've invested in our children this fall."

The transition from fall to winter seasons was seamless once again this year, with Basketball Program Director John Frieri holding try-outs in October at Orange Avenue School. With the assistance of his volunteer staff, including PAL President Gregg Wheatley, the winter basketball season is underway and teams have participated in the Wayne Thanksgiving Tournament, Holiday Slamfest, Autumn Hoops II, and the Raritan Bay JamFest.

The PAL Wrestling Program also began with almost 100 participants registered.

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(above) Cheer Party

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(above)  
PAL Football Banquet.



(left) The new snack stand and bathroom facility that was spearheaded by the Cranford PAL, Cranford Booster Club and volunteers John Vicci and Tony Digiovanni.



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## RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT CLASSES

All classes are held at Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. and are for Cranford residents only. Please contact Cranford Community Center with any questions at (908) 709-7283.

### CHILDREN'S TYPING CLASS

The typing classes are for students, grades 3-8, will be held on Wednesdays, Jan. 25th – Feb. 15th. Grades 3-5 meet from 3:45-4:45pm and Grades 6-8 meet from 5:00-6:00pm. The class requires students to bring their own laptops with internet capability. The cost is \$35. Registration is on-going.

### PRE-SCHOOL MULTI-SPORT PROGRAM

The multi-sport program for ages 3-5 yrs, was developed to give children a positive first step into athletics. The essentials of Flag Football, Basketball, Tball and Soccer are taught in a safe, structured environment with lots of encouragement and a big focus on fun. Our Mini-Hawk games and activities were designed to allow campers to explore balance, movement, hand/eye coordination and skill development at their own pace. Classes are held Thursdays, Jan. 5-Feb. 23 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. or 12:30 pm. - 1:15 p.m. The cost is \$95.00. To participate in T-ball, please bring appropriate sized glove.



(above) Baking for Seniors class meets twice a month on Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.



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(above) Kinder Yoga class, will be available again in January, with both a.m. and p.m. classes on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

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# VETS MEET JETS IN JERSEY

Submitted by Jay E. Boxwell Jr., VFW National Commander Aide De-Camp

Admittedly, it doesn't happen often. Certainly, it doesn't happen enough. But when do 150 Viet Nam Veterans, representing all veterans organizations, join together to remember, to commemorate and to enjoy the company of their comrades?

The New York Jets Football organization apparently understood that. So on Sunday December 4, 2016 the NY Jets invited 150 Viet Nam Veterans to their practice facility in Florham Park, NJ. The occasion was to be honored with a 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemorative pin and to simply enjoy a terrific "Welcome Home" experience.

A buffet breakfast led the morning off, which followed a "Posting of the Colors" by the Cranford NJ VFW Post #335's Color Guard and a patriotic Pledge of Allegiance by the group. "Amazing Grace" was played meticulously by the 12 member Union County Emerald Society Pipe and Drum Corp. adding a significant degree of solemnity to the event. In keeping with that solemnity and tradition, VFW Post #335 also provided a proper MIA-POW table and empty chair in memory of those missing comrades.

The very first featured speaker, Medal of Honor recipient Jack Jacobs was welcomed with a two-minute standing round of applause. Mr. Jacobs saw his meritorious action in Kien Phong

Province in 1968 while serving as an assistant battalion adviser to a South Vietnamese army unit. His moving remarks opened humorously on his lack of height, "which saved my life", and later on the patriotic aspect of being a Vietnam Veteran and the need to be proud of the experience.

Following Mr. Jacobs remarks, Major General Troy Kok head of the 99th Regional Support Command at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, talked emotionally on the sacrifices that we as veterans have made and the positive consequences of our military experiences. Both speeches were met with tumultuous applause from a grateful audience of men and women Vets.

Following the speeches, a few words of thanks from the General Manager of the NY Jets, Michael Maccagnan were said and commemorative pins were handed out with a handshake and sincere "thank you" to each and every Vietnam Veteran in attendance. Afterwards all were invited to watch a brief practice on the outside practice turf by the Jets squad followed by a meet and greet autograph session with the players.

But the morning was really more than that. "I met a guy I served with in the 173rd Airborne, that I haven't seen in 45 years" said Viet Nam Vet Billy Lueddeke from Kenilworth,

NJ. "Just that, seeing him again made it an unbelievable day for me and brought back memories I haven't thought of in years". Another Vet talked of the special emotions he felt just being in the presence of so many who shared his experiences, "just chatting with the guys at the table about where they were and what they did made it for me, I was truly grateful for this day", said Mike Chmiel, Army Vet, of Cranford, NJ.

A great deal of socializing certainly took place during the breakfast. The joint comradery, the coming together of those who lived "Nam" and made it back to the "World", while remembering those souls who did not, made this a special experience and a remarkable day.



(above) Cranford VFW Jr. Vice Commander talking with Major General Kok and Jets GM about his service.



(above l-r) Cranford VFW Post 335 Provided the Colors as well as the POW/MIA display for the day's events: Col Drew Burns, Jim Silkemson, Braulio Luranza, Jim D'Arcy, Jay Boxwell, Hanif Davis.



(above) Congressional Medal Recipient Jack Jacobs addressed the Vietnam Veterans about his experience and on receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor.

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## OBITUARY

### Marvin Lane

Marvin Lane of Natick, formerly of Cranford, New Jersey, died on December 5th at the age of 98 after a brief illness. Born in Philadelphia to Molly (Stein) and David Lane, he was the beloved husband of the late Alberta (Shukis) Lane, father of Andrew and Norma Lane of Natick, and David Lane and Melanie Podsiadlo of New Marlborough, MA. He was also the much-loved grandfather of Christopher, Michael, Aron, and Zoe Lane.

Marvin grew up in Philadelphia and southern New Jersey, where he developed a love of science. He graduated with distinction from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science with a degree in chemistry in 1940. He planned to pursue an advanced degree in synthetic organic chemistry but he went to work for the Permutit Co and never got back to graduate school. During World War II, he worked on war related projects including a kit for downed pilots to make a week's supply of drinkable water from sea water. He subsequently had a long career in the industrial water treatment business moving from the lab to the executive side as president of what would become the Graver Water Division of Marmon Corp. He oversaw the development of large water and waste treatment plants in the United States and around the world.

Marvin had a lifelong love of music, reading, gardening, and woodcarving. Legally blind from macular degeneration for many years, he kept his sense of humor to the very end. Donations may be made to the BrightFocus Foundation to support macular degeneration research.

## CRANFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT RAISES OVER \$6,000 FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Twenty-three members of the Cranford Police Department, ranging from the rank of Captain to Communications Officer participated in "No-Shave November." This is the second consecutive year in which Chief James Wozniak encouraged his officers to partake in this event which supports cancer research and education.

Beginning in 2009, "No-Shave November" is a month-long non-profit fundraising event during which participants forgo their normal shaving and grooming routine in an attempt to promote cancer awareness. Typically, participants donate the money they spend on shaving and grooming products, which ultimately benefits such organizations as the

American Cancer Society, Prevent Cancer Foundation, Fight Colorectal Cancer, and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. To date, No-Shave November has raised over 5 million dollars for these organizations.

In 2016, the members of the Cranford Police Department, nicknamed "The Fuzz", utilized Social Media to raise over \$6,000 for Cancer Research.

Chief Wozniak applauded the fund-raising efforts of the participants. "Although it is unusual to see our officers in uniform with beards, it is a great conversation starter to raise awareness for a topic that undoubtedly affects all of us."





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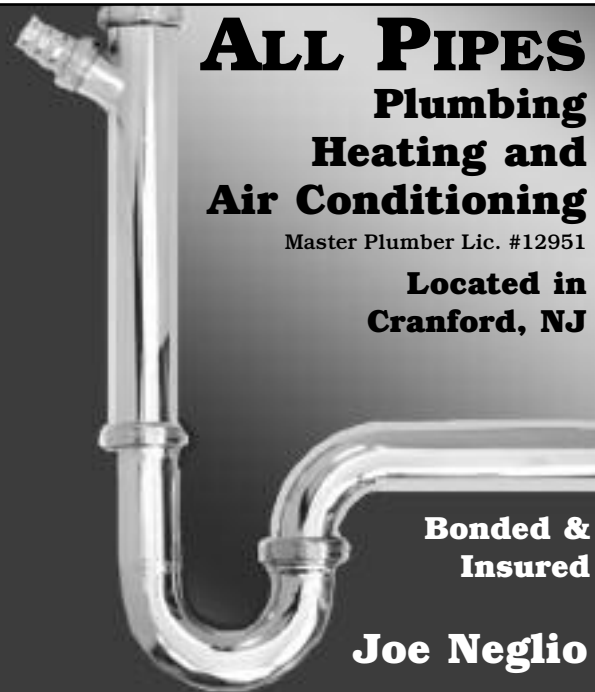
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## VFW POST HOSTS PEARL HARBOR DAY SERVICE

The morning of December 7th was quite cold on South Avenue in Cranford. The temperature however, did little to deter the many patriotic towns' people from attending Cranford VFW Post #335 annual memorial service remembering and honoring those lost on the "day that will live in infamy" at Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Post Commander Jay Boxwell was the master of ceremonies which was held outside the Post home on that brisk misty morning. The service featured not only a playing of the famous words of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on that fateful day, but included a beautiful playing of taps by Phillip Schroeder a recent Cranford High graduate, and a haunting playing of Amazing Grace by Cranford Policeman Thomas Bell on the bagpipes. The memorial was also attended by the Cranford VFW Post #335 Color Guard.

Commander Boxwell spoke of the need to remember not only those who gave their lives for our country but to remember their families who suffered their loss for decades. He reminded the audience to thank every man, woman and child who have paid an emotional or physical price so

that our nation can endure and so we can enjoy the prosperity and peace we have in our home town of Cranford.

After the service all were asked to the Post lounge for coffee and danish.

Cranford VFW Post #335 holds this memorial service for those lost at Pearl Harbor annually and all are invited to attend.



## VFW POST ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

Cranford's VFW Post #335 has announced it will be holding its annual blood drive, on Saturday, January 21st, 2017, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at its Post Home at 479 South Ave. E. in Cranford.

VFW Chairperson, Joseph Del Grippo stressed the need for Cranford residents to take part in this important township event. "Blood supplies are always at critically low levels this time of the

year because we are all so busy with the holidays. We need a great turnout to fix the shortages and bring the blood supplies to a safe level. Please help us help those in need."

Donor guidelines stress that you weigh at least 110 lbs and that you eat before your donation while drinking plenty of water with your meal as well.

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# AUTHOR TO DISCUSS ALL THE PRESIDENTS' GARDENS JAN 17TH

Please join the Hanson Park Conservancy on Tuesday, January 17th at 7:30 p.m. as we welcome Marta McDowell, author of All the Presidents' Gardens at the Cranford Community Center. If you love history or gardening, you will love this program! Garden historian, Marta McDowell will take us on an entertaining journey through our nation's history as seen through the evolution of the White House grounds. In her presentation, the author will share how the presidents, their families and the White House gardeners have left their imprint on America's most famous residence, from Lincoln's goats to Jackie Kennedy's roses to Michelle Obama's kitchen garden.

Marta McDowell lives, writes and gardens in Chatham, NJ. She teaches at the New York Botanical Garden and has worked as a horticulturalist at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit. She has been a featured speaker at locations ranging from the Arnold Arboretum to the Philadelphia Flower Show. McDowell's garden is included in the Smithsonian's Archive of American Gardens.

The Cranford Community Center is located at 220 Walnut Ave. in Cranford, NJ. McDowell will have copies of her books, All the Presidents' Gardens and Beatrix Potter's Gardening Life available for purchase and signing. Cash or check only. This event is sponsored by the Hanson Park Conservancy. If you can, please register for this event on the Hanson Park Conservancy's website, [www.hansonparkconservancy.com](http://www.hansonparkconservancy.com).

## CRANFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY 90TH ANNIVERSARY MEMBERSHIP FORM 2017



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## ADULT WINTER READING PROGRAM

The Cranford Public Library is pleased to announce its third annual Adult Winter Reading Program. Cranford Public Library card holders and MURAL patrons 18 years and older are encouraged to participate. Registration is not required. The program will run from January 17 to March 3. Read or listen to a book and place your prize entry form in the snowman at the main desk of the library. There will be weekly random drawings for gift certificates to Ambeli Tavern, the Cranford Hotel, Il Gabbiano, Kilkenny House, Perrotti's, the River and Rail Cantina,

Sonny G's, the Thirsty Turtle, Track 5 Coffee, and Trader Joe's; and two grand prizes, \$75 gift certificates to the Garlic Rose Restaurant and Pairings Palate and Plate Restaurant, will be awarded at the end of the program. Whether you read a little or a lot, visit the library, pick up some books to beat the winter blues, and give yourself a chance to win some prizes! For questions about the program, call the library at 908-709-7272, or send an email to [library@cranfordnj.org](mailto:library@cranfordnj.org). The program is partially funded by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.

## ANNUAL COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT FAIR

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday the public is invited to attend the 4th Annual Cranford Community Service Project Fair to be held on Monday, January 16, 2016 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford located at 11 Springfield Ave, Cranford, NJ.

In preparation for the fair, the Interfaith Community Service is seeking donations of: Single serving healthy snacks; Single serve juice boxes; Single serve 1%low-fat milk boxes-non refrigerated, like Parmalat (most needed!); Single fruit or applesauce cups; Single serve sugar free cereal boxes, such as Cheerios, Rice Krispies,

etc.; Single serve microwaveable pop- top meals like stew or mac and cheese(no Ramen type noodle cups, please); Any house cleaning products, such as spray cleaners, multi-purpose cleaners,toilet bowl cleaners, sponges, etc.; and Disposable baby diapers, any size.

Donations can be dropped off at any House of Worship in Cranford. With everyone's support, we hope to make this year's Service Fair even more successful than our last, as we continue to establish this tradition for our community. If you have any questions please contact Janice at [Jansport2@verizon.net](mailto:Jansport2@verizon.net) or Cindy at [cindy@patwin.com](mailto:cindy@patwin.com).

## CPD UPGRADES SCHOOL RESOURCE VEHICLE WITH GENEROSITY OF EII

In the spirit of showing Cranford-Pride and continuing to build on community relations with our youth, the Cranford Police Department recently upgraded its juvenile bureau police car as a result of the generosity of a local businessman. Mr. John Guempel of Eii Electrical & Mechanical Contractors spearheaded the effort to modify a traditional black and white radio car into to a blue and gold school resource officer vehicle. Currently the car is assigned to the department's school resource officer and can be seen at district schools on a daily basis.

The Township of Cranford and Cranford Board of Education began its school resource officer program in 2014. The initiative aims to bridge the

gap between the township's younger generation and local law enforcement. This blended partnership between the police department and schools is symbolically displayed through this unique upgrade in the school resource officer vehicle.

Chief Wozniak thanked both Eii and John Guempel for its generosity in making this upgrade possible. "My goal as Chief has been to continue to bring our community together," said Chief Wozniak. "When we can positively combine efforts of our township, school district and generous local businesses such as Eii, it speaks to the spirit of our community and the caliber of its people."





# HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATING OUR 90TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2017

*An Invitation . . . For you and every member of your family.*

This is a personal invitation for you and your family to become members of the Cranford Historical Society. All you have to do is fill out a membership form found on-line at [www.cranfordhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.cranfordhistoricalsociety.com) or call 908-276-0082 and ask to have a form mailed to you. All members receive 5 copies a year of our newsletter, The Mill Wheel.

The Cranford Historical Society was founded by Wesley A. Stanger, Sr. and a group of local citizens interested in preserving the town's unique history. Since its founding, the Society has been dedicated to the perpetuation of Cranford's history by continuing to collect and document the town's past and present as we now enter the 21st century. The Society was chartered by the State of New Jersey on February 17, 1927, as a non-profit educational organization.

The Society's headquarters were initially located at 124 North Union Avenue, now the Crane-Phillips House Museum, until the Society moved to the Hanson House. It was the longtime home and office of Dr. Carl Hanson, a pediatrician, who opened his office here in 1934, and over five succeeding decades, provided care for hundreds of Cranford children. Dr. Hanson was a nationally recognized researcher in the field of strep throat. The Township purchased the property and then leased it to the Cranford Historical Society in 1990.

The Cranford Historical Society has maintained the Hanson House since 1990. Through a grant from Union County, matching funds from the Township of Cranford and the Society in addition to donations; the Society was able to have the Hanson House painted in 2011 in historically correct colors: green, cream trim and burgundy accents, to blend with nature. All new windows were installed, a needed stabilization. Still, work is an ongoing process to continue to preserve this "historic home."

The Society is conducted strictly in the interest of Cranford, affording opportunities for the public to become better acquainted with the past

and present history of Cranford and its environment. Its only source of income is from annual dues, donations and grants. Our collections contain many exhibits & archives, maps, documents, photographs, research library; an extensive costume and military uniform collection, providing insight into the history of Cranford. Our office is open for research during the week, Monday & Tuesday from 9:00-11:00am and Monday through Thursday from 3:30-5:30pm.

The Society is managed by the Board of Trustees, led by President Margaret Gerlach. The Board of Trustees also includes: Vice-President Mary Wade, Chairman of the Board John Dreyer, Treasurer Charles Goodfellow, Recording Secretary Barbara Klaus, Corresponding Secretary Linda Bristow, Curator Vic Bary, and Costume Curator Gail Alterman. Other Trustees are Nancy Bender, Bill Curtis, Louise Engstrom, Christine Glazer, Lori Hoffner, Jean Pascarella, and Patricia Pavlak. Our part-time office administrator keeps our office running smoothly and brings a deep knowledge of the Society and its history.

The Cranford Historical Society also maintains the Crane-Phillips House Museum, which is our primary programming site. It is a prime example of the work of Victorian architect Andrew Jackson Downing, whose book, Victorian Cottage Residences published in 1843, influenced American vernacular architecture. The museum was restored in 1998. A replica 19th

Century kitchen was installed along with interior restoration. This Victorian cottage's vibrant two-toned green and red exterior trim with peach door were uncovered and restored.

President Margaret Gerlach states, an average of 2,000 people a year visit the Museum which is across the street from the Cranford 9/11 Memorial. It is open two Sundays a month from 2:00-4:00pm from September to May and during the week by appointment only. Admission is free but donations are happily accepted. If you have not visited the museum with your family, you are cordially invited to do so. The Museum was placed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places in 1997 and was named a "Save America's Treasures" by The White House in 1999. Cranford Third Grade classes have visited the Crane-Phillips House for decades.

In 2017, the Cranford Historical Society will be celebrating our 90th Anniversary. In becoming members, you are aligning your family with one of the important educational organizations in Cranford. On behalf of myself and the Board of Trustees, we are looking forward to having you and your family joining members of the Cranford Historical Society in preserving and perpetuating the history of Cranford through our many programs and events now and in the years to come.

Any questions, please call our Hanson House office at 908-276-0082 or visit us on our website at [www.cranfordhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.cranfordhistoricalsociety.com).





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# CRANFORD GIRL SCOUTS ANNUAL TREE DECORATING EVENT

On Nov. 25th, Cranford Brownie Troop 40013 organized and hosted the Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadets, Seniors & Ambassadors of Cranford in decorating the Holiday Tree located in Mayor's Park on the corner of Springfield and North Union Avenues. Over 33 troops and over 300 girls participated in the annual event, sponsored by the Cranford Chamber of Commerce.

Hundreds of girl scouts created individual ornaments to hang on the festive tree, a tradition that spans decades. The event kicked-off with a vocal performance of the National Anthem by Abigail Kelly, a Junior Girl Scout from Troop 40753. The tree decorating ceremony precedes the Chamber of Commerce's tree lighting ceremony which took place that evening.

"Our troop has been honored with organizing and hosting the decorating ceremony for the past two years," said Elayna Torsone, Leader of Troop 40013. "The girls love to be involved in such a festive community activity and it has taught them responsibility and commitment, two very important qualities instilled in all girl scouts."

Girl Scouts is the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls - all girls - where, in an accepting and nurturing environment, girls build character and skills for success in the real world. In partnership with committed adult volunteers, girls develop qualities that will serve them all their lives.

For over 100 years, its membership has been unified towards the achievement of the Girl Scout mission: "To build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place."

The Girl Scouts of Cranford boasts over 1,139 Girl Scout Members in 67 troops and Juliette's making it one of the largest non-profit organizations in town. The Cranford Service Unit is a part of the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey (GSHNJ) Council which is part of the Girl Scouts of the USA.

If your family is interested in learning more about local Girl Scouts or to find out more information on the Girls Scouts of Cranford, please visit [www.cranfordgirlscouts.com](http://www.cranfordgirlscouts.com).



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## MUNSEE DISTRICT CUBELOS CAMPING EVENT

Cranford's Cub Scout Pack 75 attended the Munsee District Cubelos camping event held in October at Mount Allamuchy Scout Reservation in Allamuchy, NJ. The theme of Cubelos was "The Scout Awakens" which was a Star Wars-related theme.

Despite some rainy weather on Friday evening and Saturday morning, the excited scouts and the enthusiastic leaders, as well the beautiful outdoors, served to provide lots of excitement for all involved.

Twenty-seven Scouts from Cranford's Cub Pack 75 participated in Cubelos, along with some

siblings, a Boy Scout from Troop 75, and the adult leaders of Pack 75.

The activities included pod racing, "light saber" (actually pool noodles) jousting, Shoot the Ewoks with sling shots, Jedi training, and fishing. The pod racers were built by pack parents and scouts from the Munsee district. The pack's pod racers were shared by scouts, who sat in them and raced against scouts from other Packs in a side by side course. Thrills and small spills were encountered, and all scouts had big smiles at the end.

Cub Pack 75 sponsored the fishing event,

which had one of our scouts catch the most fish (among 12 total for Pack 75). Six different varieties of fish were caught, and all participants—many of them having their first experience with fishing—had a good time.

At Saturday night's campfire, Cub Pack 75 scouts performed two classic skits. If you have never seen a Cub Scout perform comedy skits, it's quite an experience!

Special thanks to Cubelos Munsee District Leaders Scott McCabe and Trish Plummer (and staff), who did an awesome job of planning and executing the event.

Local Cub Pack 75 parent Dan Coyne and his Cubelos crew all worked hard to make Cub Pack 75's Cubelos camping happen. Notable help from Ken Simone, James Mortimer, Chris McCarthy, Bill Hanna, Mike McCarthy Bryan Karant, Paul Kimball, and countless others. The Parents of Pack 75 made sure the cub scouts enjoyed their time thoroughly, even when wet!

If your first thru fifth grade boy would like to participate in the scouts, contact the Cubmaster of Pack 75 at [Orest.w.hrycak.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Orest.w.hrycak.civ@mail.mil).



## FREE WORKSHOP OFFERED ON STARTING A NEW SMALL BUSINESS

Starting your own small business may be the fulfillment of a long-held dream, but it's also a very risky proposition: about half of all businesses fail within five years. That's why UCEDC, a non-profit, small business lender and entrepreneurial training organization, is offering a free workshop, "Starting a Business in NJ – the Steps you Need to Take" on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 6 pm at its Cranford headquarters.

Led by UCEDC Director of Training Erich Peter, the session will cover the mechanics of starting a business including the pros and cons of different legal business structures, required insurances; understanding your tax liabilities, and HR issues.

"You may have the greatest product or service to sell, but it won't matter if you don't prepare yourself for the many challenges you will inevitably face," warns Peter. "We'll review some of the more critical factors that contribute to a successful small business and give you a strong foundation to move ahead."

UCEDC is the entrepreneurial training arm of the NJ Economic Development Authority and provides scores of free business literacy workshops throughout New Jersey.

Online registration for the free workshop is available on the UCEDC website: [www.ucedc.com](http://www.ucedc.com).

For more information, contact Erich Peter at

908-527-1166 or [epeter@ucedc.com](mailto:epeter@ucedc.com).

UCEDC (Union County Economic Development Corp.), a nonprofit economic development corporation, is dedicated to promoting New Jersey's small businesses with resources tailored to every stage of business growth. Since our inception in 1977, we've provided over \$24 million in loans to start-up and established businesses through a variety of SBA programs and other funding sources. Our Procurement Technical Assistance Center helped local businesses win over \$2 billion in awarded government contracts. And thousands of entrepreneurs have attended our workshops and seminars.

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