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HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT CHOIR GETS TO CARNEGIE HALL



The Cranford High School Concert Choir performed at Carnegie Hall on Saturday, January 14, 2017 in a performance entitled "War, Peace, and the Power of Music." Produced by Performing Arts Educators and artistic director Dr. Peggy Dettwiler, the festival concert featured nine different choirs including the Mansfield University Concert Choir, directed by Dr. Dettwiler. Groups from New Jersey to Ireland participated in the concert and joined together in the finale, the last portion of the Ralph Vaughan Williams Dona Nobis Pacem. While the Cranford High School Concert Choir has performed at Carnegie Hall before in massed-choir

events, this was the first time in school history that the students were invited to present a solo performance at the famous hall. It also marked director Anthony Rafaniello's Carnegie Hall conducting debut. For the Cranford High School students, the performance was a once in a lifetime experience. Audience members praised their sophisticated singing and program.

The Concert Choir's spring season will begin with the Cranford High School Spring Choral Concert on Thursday, April 27th at 7:30pm. The concert is open to the public and free to attend.

THANK YOU FROM CRANFORD FAMILY CARE

On behalf of the Board of Directors, and the families we serve I wish to thank our donors who made Thanksgiving and Christmas such a special time for our agency. The outpouring of food, gifts, monetary donations and gift cards was heart warming. As we look forward to the future we must acknowledge the generosity of so many: Boy scouts, Girl scouts, schools, businesses, clubs, houses of worship, and residents who by their desire to make a difference in our town

out did themselves. Cranford Family Care Association is celebrating 80 years of service to the community we cannot do this alone, we are so grateful to the many wonderful people who help us along the way. May 2017 be as good to you as you have been to us. Happy New Year!

Kathy Willis
Cranford Family Care Association

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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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FEB. 13 TH MEETING COLLEGE WOMEN'S CLUB

The February meeting of the Cranford College Women's Club will feature a program on Nutrition and Healthy Aging presented by Natalie Capoccia. The meeting will be held on Monday, February 13, 2017 at the First Presbyterian Church on Springfield Avenue in Cranford. The meeting starts at 7 PM with refreshments followed by the speaker. The meeting is open to the public.

Natalie Capoccia will discuss the important vitamins, minerals, and "super foods" that are vital to our bodies as we age. She will provide

handouts, give-aways and samples. Natalie is the Retail Dietitian at the Shop Rite of Garwood. She is a graduate of Montclair State University with a BS in nutrition/dietetics and a minor in psychology. She attended the College of Saint Elizabeth where she completed her Dietetic Internship which is a 1200 hour supervised practice in hospitals, the community, and food service. She has been employed at Shop Rite as the dietitian for the past year. She is currently in graduate school for nutrition at the College of Saint Elizabeth.



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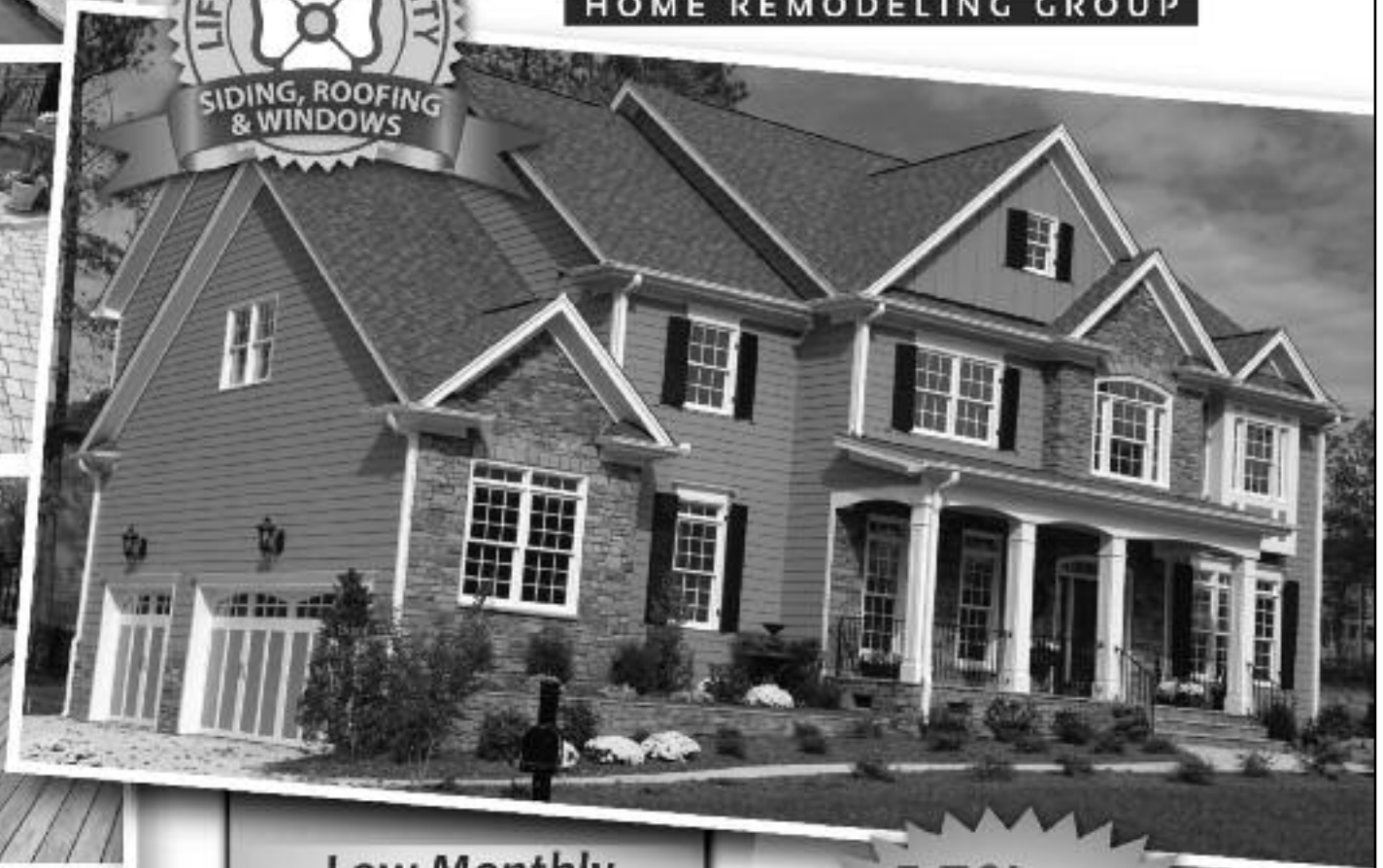


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CASA RECEIVES GIFTS DONATION FROM CRANFORD FIFTH-GRADER

Living in foster care — away from home, friends, family and all that is familiar — is difficult enough, but during holidays, birthdays and other special days, a child's loss is magnified.

For Lisa and Bobby Hopkins, loss has become a reality. In 2015, their five-year-old daughter Ariella died after a sudden illness, just weeks

after kindergarten graduation. Since then, the Milltown couple has worked tirelessly to keep her memory alive. The first Christmas without Ariella the family held a toy drive for children in need and CASA of Union County was among the recipients. In the last year, Ariella's favorite park was named for her, and more than 700 people celebrated Ariella Hopkins Day and raised more than \$30,000 for scholarships, veterans and their families.

Indeed, for the Hopkins, they say paying it forward means Ariella's memory lives on. This year they promised CASA of Union County enough gifts from their second annual toy drive for every child the nonprofit serves. And they delivered. Advocates chose from items donated through the Hopkins family toy drive as well as the community in response to an online CASA wish list, and wrapped and delivered them to their CASA youth in time for the holidays.

Yet, there was more forward-paying to come, with an unusual, small-world twist. When 11-year-old Mia Papapietro of Cranford celebrated her birthday in December, she knew exactly what she wanted: nothing. Instead, she asked friends to give a child's gift she could donate to CASA of Union County in memory of Lisa and Bobby's Ariella.

Mia was 5 years old, according to her mom, when she first saw an empty Toys for Tots bin and insisted on remedying the issue right away. Every holiday since, Mia selects and donates a toy for charity. This year, when Mia was asked for birthday gift ideas, the fifth-grader grabbed the Ariella Hopkins toy drive flier her mom had

in the kitchen — Mia's mom and Ariella's mom go way back — and exclaimed, "Mom! Let's collect for your friend's daughter!" And so it was. Mia knows Ariella's parents want to remember their daughter by making other kids smile, and she knows CASA helps children in foster care. For Mia, that's a win-win: "I hope the presents make them really happy and can make them forget some of the bad things they are going through," she said.

Marla Higginbotham, CASA's executive director, said, "When I met Bobby and Lisa Hopkins I was taken with how genuinely kind they are. They've focused their energy on keeping their daughter's memory alive, but in a way that impacts others and is meaningful for the community. Truly beautiful people doing a beautiful thing. Their hearts are full of love for their daughter in a way that makes her presence larger than themselves." Higginbotham added, "And seeing the smile on Mia's face, happy to give to our foster children gifts that could have been only hers? That's further proof of the impact one person can make. Actually, in this case, two children: Mia and Ariella. Our CASA kids may never know either girl, but because of them, they get to know a happy day, as every child should."

Since 2005, CASA of Union County has been recruiting, training, supervising and supporting community volunteers to advocate for abused, neglected and abandoned children removed from home and placed in foster care. There are 600 Union County youth in care and two-thirds still need a CASA volunteer. To learn more, contact Lisa Poris at 908-527-7048.



(above) 11-year-old Mia Papapietro of Cranford celebrated her birthday in December. Instead of presents for herself, she asked friends to give a child's gift she could donate to CASA of Union County.



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A black and white photograph of a man and a woman in a romantic dance pose, smiling at each other. The man is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants, and the woman is wearing a light-colored top. They are surrounded by several heart-shaped graphics of varying sizes.

Dance

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LADIES' NIGHT OUT SET FOR MARCH 22ND



Project Home of Cranford is happy to announce that our annual Ladies' Night Out will be held on Wednesday March 22, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the Westwood, 438 North Ave, Garwood.

The evening includes a sit-down dinner (including wine), a tricky tray auction with a large variety of items and an overall great evening of socializing. All the profits from this event will go to help Cranford Family Care, a local charity that assists Cranford families in need.

For 25 years Project Home of Cranford, a 501(c)3 charity has been working through Cranford Family Care to keep Cranford families in their homes.

Ladies' Night Out is a very popular event that regularly attracts over 300 women, and can be the perfect opportunity for merchants to advertise their businesses. Unfortunately funding to Family Care from other sources has been reduced making our fundraising efforts critical and we find ourselves in need of sponsors for the event.

If you would like to participate, enquire about the tickets for Ladies' Night Out or just find out more about Project Home and our mission

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By: James McGlew II, Esq.

Individuals engaged in a divorce understand that the dissolution of their marriage can be a difficult and complicated process. For individuals of high net worth, the divorce process can present a complex maze of responsibilities and decisions which need to be addressed. The prospect of valuing marital assets, including properties, business interests, investments and the like, along with the task of distributing their value between the parties, has the ability to make an already tense situation worse.

There are specific issues that high net worth individuals must consider in anticipation of divorce. At Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, we have years of experience in handling high net worth divorce cases for individuals in Westfield, Cranford, Warren and other New Jersey communities. We understand our clients' concerns regarding the financial impact their divorce will impose on their lives and understand that providing individualized attention is necessary to provide the aggressive representation which is often required.

Thorough preparation and investigation are always required to truly understand the parties' incomes, assets, debts, property, and budgetary needs. As an example, if you are a valued employee earning a significant level of income, you will be required to produce proof of your current income, your tax returns for several years, a schedule of any other perks you receive through your employment including travel and expense accounts, and a schedule of any benefits from your employer including pension benefits, 401(k) accounts, stock options, deferred compensation, restricted stock, life insurance and other related benefits.

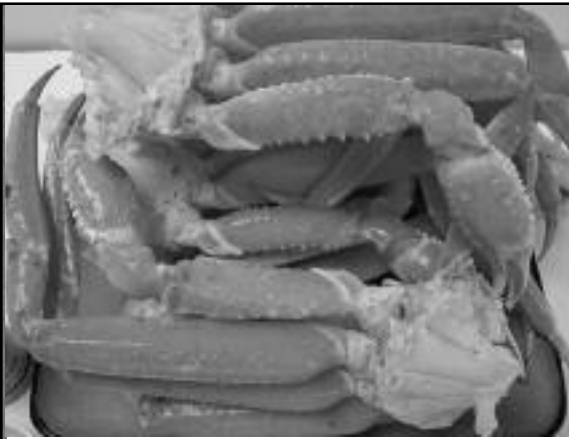
If you are a business owner you will be required to produce business tax returns for a minimum of five years, as well as other related business financial records. This will be in addition to the disclosure of income and benefits you receive from your business. Privacy issues concerning the disclosure of this information are of the utmost importance and we

take all necessary steps to ensure that your business information is protected.

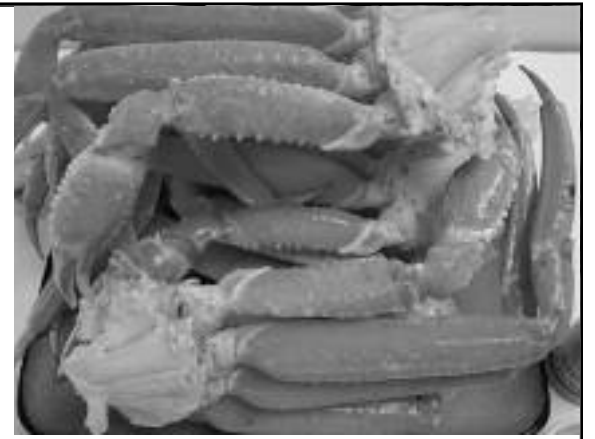
If one or both of the parties has an ownership interest in a business or partnership, a formal valuation by a qualified forensic accountant will generally be required to determine the business' value and the amount of interest each spouse has in the business. Lindabury works to match the forensic accountant best suited to assist you in this process. In high net worth cases, each asset must be carefully examined to determine which assets are subject to equitable distribution (and to what extent) and which are considered separate property. Negotiations to obtain a fair settlement can be complex and may involve considerations such as whether to sell or liquidate an asset and divide the proceeds, or retain and allocate the asset to one spouse in exchange for an asset of comparative value.

If you have concerns about protecting your financial interests in a high net worth divorce, it is always beneficial to seek the guidance and assistance from an attorney with experience. At Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, our practice includes diverse expertise in related areas including tax, real estate, corporate law, and trusts, which we utilize to provide comprehensive legal advice to high net worth individuals who are dissolving a marriage. Our New Jersey divorce lawyers represent people throughout the state in all areas of family law, including child custody and support, alimony, asset distribution, and more. Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper provides legal representation to people in communities across Union, Somerset, Monmouth, Middlesex, Morris, and Bergen Counties, among other areas. Call today to schedule a consultation with James McGlew at (908) 233-6800.

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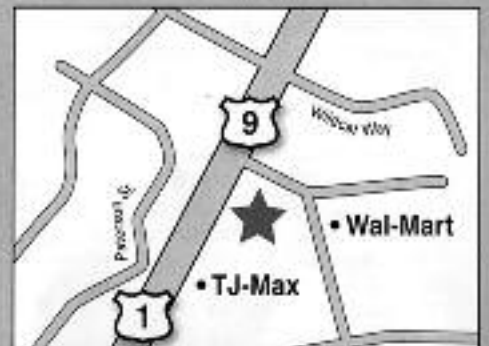
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GIRL SCOUTS RECEIVE PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

Seven members of the Girl Scouts of Cranford (48) have received President's Volunteer Service Awards in recognition of their high level of hours spent providing volunteer community service. The awards, issued as an initiative of the Corporation for National and Community Service administered by the Points of Light, on behalf of the President of the United States, were recognized at the Girl Scouts of Cranford Leader meeting on December 12th.

In the Teen PVSA Category (ages 15 to 11), receiving Gold level recognitions were Meg Cui (Junior) and Desirée Santos (Freshman), who both performed over 100 hours of community related service. Receiving a Silver level recognition was Melanie Smith (Junior), who performed between 75 and 99 hours of community related service. All recipients in this level are Cranford High School students.

In the Young Adult Category (ages 16-25), receiving a Bronze level recognition was Morgana Haub (Senior) from Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark, who performed over 100 hours of community related service.

In the Adult category (ages 26 and Older), receiving a Silver level recognition was Kristin Brunner Santos who performed between 250 and 499 hours of community related service. Receiving Bronze level recognitions were Olivia Haub and Lisa Durant who performed between 100 and 249 hours of community related service.

As a certifying organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award, The Girl Scouts of Cranford is responsible for verifying service hours, nominating potential recipients and delivering the award. The Girl Scouts of Cranford confers various levels of awards for volunteer service completed in a 12-month period based on the recipients age and number of hours completed. The recipients received a certificate

in recognition and appreciation of commitment to strengthening the nation and for making a difference through volunteer service in addition to a letter from President Obama and a service level pin.

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.

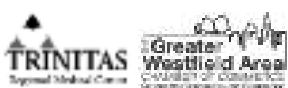
If your family is interested in learning more about local Girl Scouts or to find out more information on the Girls Scouts of Cranford, please visit www.cranfordgirlscouts.com.



(above l-r) Lisa Durant, Olivia Haub, Desirée Santos, Meg Cui, Melanie Smith, Morgana Haub and Kristin Brunner Santos.

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NOEL COWARDS COMEDY BLITHE SPIRIT COMING TO CDC THEATRE

Opening on February 10, Noel Coward's classic comedy *Blithe Spirit* will be the first production of 2017 at CDC Theatre in Cranford. Located at 78 Winans Ave, CDC Theatre is the oldest continuously producing community theatre in New Jersey.

As *Blithe Spirit* begins, novelist Charles Condomine is preparing to host a séance to be conducted by a medium known as Madame Arcati. For him, it's a jokey way to do research for a new novel, appropriately titled *The Unseen*. Unexpectedly, however, the evening ends with the spectral reappearance of his first wife, Elvira, pronounced Elveera, who has been dead for five years.

Only Charles can see her, which causes immediate problems with his very-much-alive second wife, briskly efficient Ruth. Charmed at first by the ghostly Elvira--with whom he shared a more passionate union than with Ruth--Charles quickly gets caught between the two.

Directed by Bill Sesselberg the cast includes Timothy McGovern as Charles, Lisa Black as Ruth, Judi Lagagna as Madame Acarti, Ashley Widmer as Elvira, Alan Foster and Danielle Levitt as Dr. and Mrs. Bradman and Susan Roberts as Ethel.

"Blithe Spirit is one of Noel Coward's great comedies, and it still brings laughs from improbable occurrences in familiar situations." Says director Bill Sesselberg, "I've seen a few productions of this play, including one in London with Angela Lansbury, and it always was an enjoyable performance. I enjoy directing comedies--the wordplay, the physical action, and great characters all are a lot of fun to work with. The cast is great--hard-working, eager to contribute their ideas and help each other bring out the best in each scene. The ideas, skills, and hard-work of the staff behind the scenes all make this play as good as it is. I've always heard great things about CDC, and I'm proud and thankful to have the opportunity to direct there."

The show will run from February 10 through the 18 and details and ticket information can be

found by visiting www.cdctheatre.org. 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
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Important Dates:

- >> April 3, 2017 - All completed entries must be submitted.
- >> April 26, 2017 - Online voting opens at preventionlinks.org/PSA
- >> May 27, 2017 - Online voting closes



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CDC THEATRE YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM REGISTRATIONS AND AUDITIONS

Introduce your child to the fun of live theatre! CDC Theatre in Cranford, New Jersey's oldest continuously operating community theatre, has opened registration for the Young Artists production of Disney's *Mulan Jr.*, its Curtain Call Classes and announces auditions for Rent.

Open to students in grades 4-8, there is no audition required to be a part of *Mulan, Jr.* but space is limited and registration is on a first come

basis. Additional information can be found by visiting www.cdctheatre.org.

To register contact Andrea Redmount at andreadmount@yahoo.com.

Curtain Call classes begin on February 27, and run on Mondays and Wednesdays after school: Mondays for grades K-3 and Wednesdays for grades 4-8.

During the spring, classes focus on movement,

acting and singing as students prepare a one of a kind cabaret performance of some of Broadway's biggest hits on May 20 at 12:00 and 3:00 pm. Details at www.cdctheatre.org.

Students in grades 8-12 are invited to sign-up and audition for Rent on March 25 and April 1.

Visit www.cdctheatre.org for information and sign-up details.

Photo By Elizabeth Lynch Photography



(above) The cast of CDC Theatre 2016 Young Artist Program production of *Footloose*

AUDITIONS FOR THE MUSICAL 9 TO 5 AT CDC THEATRE IN CRANFORD

CDC Theatre in Cranford, New Jersey's oldest continuously producing community theatre, will be holding open auditions for the musical *9 to 5* at the theatre's 78 Winans Ave. home.

Auditions will be Wed. 2/15 7:30 -10pm and Sat 2/18 2-5pm with Callbacks on Tues. 2/21 7:30-10pm. The show will run from May 5 – 20, 2017.

Interested performers are asked to prepare 32 bars of a song of your choice. There will be no initial dance audition. Additional information can be found by visiting www.cdctheatre.org.

9 to 5 The Musical, with music and lyrics by Dolly Parton and book by Patricia Resnick, is

based on the seminal 1980 hit movie. Set in the late 1970s. This hilarious story of friendship and revenge in the Rolodex era is outrageous, thought-provoking and even a little romantic. Pushed to the boiling point, three female coworkers concoct a plan to get even with the sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot they call their boss. In a hilarious turn of events, Violet, Judy and Doralee live out their wildest fantasy – giving their boss the boot! While Hart remains "otherwise engaged," the women give their workplace a dream makeover, taking control of the company that had always kept them down. Hey, a girl can scheme, can't she?

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CDC Theatre Presents



Feb. 10-11, 16-17-18 at 8pm
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100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST KNOWN SALE OF COOKIES BY GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey announced in January the celebration of the 100th season of Girl Scouts selling cookies. A century ago, girls started participating in what would evolve into the largest entrepreneurial training program for girls in the world: the Girl Scout Cookie Program®, through which girls learn the essential skills they need to become effective leaders, manage finances, and gain self-sufficiency and confidence in handling money. To commemorate this banner year for the organization, the highly-anticipated Girl Scout S'mores™ cookies are now available, joining classics like Thin Mints and Trefoils/Shortbreads.

Girl Scout Cookies not only help Girl Scouts earn money for fun, educational activities and community projects, but also play a huge role in transforming girls into G.I.R.L.s (Go-getters, Innovators, Risk-takers, Leaders)™ as they learn essential life skills that will stay with them forever. Continue to enhance the girls journey, when you see Girl Scout selling in your town, support their efforts.

The celebration of 100 years of Girl Scouts selling cookies will kick into high gear during National Girl Scout Cookie Weekend 2017. From January to April, Girl Scouts in your town may be hosting events and cookie booths for cookie enthusiasts to get their hands on the iconic treats and join in the fun. To find cookie varieties available locally or learn more about the history of Girl Scout cookies and the Girl Scout Cookie Program, visit www.girlscoutcookies.org. To join or volunteer, visit www.gshnj.org/join and www.gshnj.org/volunteer.



FREE TAX APPEAL SEMINAR

Paying More than Your Fair Share in Property Tax?



Jennifer Jacobus, Esq.

Did your tax bill go down with your home's home value since 2007? Or maybe you always thought you were over taxed!

This Free Seminar, February 28th at the Westfield Y will teach you about the tax appeal system to address these issues and get you the

lower tax bill you may deserve.

And since homebuyers are tax conscious too, you will boost your property value by getting your taxes reduced before you hit the market.

Any homeowner may appeal, with or without an attorney. **All appeals must be filed by April 1st.**

To help you understand the process and possibly put you on the path to considerable tax savings, Jennifer Jacobus, Esq. will outline all you need to know to consider if a tax appeal is right for you. **The Seminar is Free and Open to the Public** February 28th, 7:30 pm, at the Y—220 Clark St. in Westfield. Sponsored as a public service by Scott Gleason, RE/MAX Properties Unlimited.

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Registration is \$8. At Door \$12 • Note: this is a non-rated tournament.

Non-scouts (under 18 only) can register by calling Joe Renna at 908-447-1295.

Scouts can use Patriots' Path Council Munsee District Double Knot link to register on-line at ppbsa.doubleknot.com/event/2031497

Scouts can email Jim Parlapiano jim.parlapiano@hotmail.com for more info.

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CRANFORD DECA EXCELS AT REGIONAL COMPETITION

On January 5, 2017, Cranford High School sent 88 students to the NJ DECA Regional Conference at Kean University to compete against students from twenty-two other high schools across Central New Jersey, including Warren Hills High School, Highland Park High School, and Sayreville War Memorial High School.

DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. DECA is a program for business-minded students looking to find real world applications for what they learn in their business classes. At the conference, students are presented with business scenarios, given 10 minutes to creatively solve the problem, and another ten minutes to role play the solution before a judge. In addition to the role play, all DECA members are required to take a written test in their chosen business area.

Thirty-five CHS students placed among the top 10 in their respective events at the regionals competition, qualifying them to attend the NJ DECA State Career Development Conference in Atlantic City on February 21-23, 2017. Students must place among the top 3 in their event at the State Conference to qualify for the DECA International Career Conference, which will be held in Anaheim, California this year in late April.

"Our students always put forth an incredible amount of effort, and this year's group is no exception," Donna Cathcart, one of the club's advisors, commented in regard to her students. "We are so proud of each of our students; they

presented themselves professionally and with poise."

Cindi Keyasko, also an advisor, adds, "Given the highly competitive nature of our group, we have already begun preparing for the competition, and are hoping to send all 35 students to California for nationals!"

Below is a list of the students who qualified for and will be attending the NJ State Conference in February:

Students Who Placed Top 3 in Their Event:

Kelly Drake- 1st place, Food Marketing Series; Grace Chen- 1st place, Quick Serve Marketing; Spencer Pascal- 1st place, Sports and Entertainment Marketing; Patrick Hoey and Owen McDermott- 1st place, Sports and Entertainment Team Decision Making; Ben Bacall- 2nd place, Marketing Communications Series;

Kevin Schwartz- 2nd place, Sports and Entertainment Marketing; Michael DiFabrizio and James Nichnadowicz- 2nd place, Sports and Entertainment Team Decision Making; Olivia Klimko- 2nd place, Business Finance Services; Rebecca Piassek- 2nd place, Food Marketing Series; Emma Lore- 3rd place, Apparel and

Accessories; Shannon Szeffinski and Karina Vizzoni- 3rd place, Hospitality Services Marketing Team Event; Kerry Pollock- 3rd place, Principles of Business Management; Matthew Fonseca and Jeremy Hunt- 3rd place, Sports and Entertainment Team Decision Making

Other Qualifiers: Michael Pettesch- Business Finance Services; Maria Venturo and Brittany Welsh- Business Law and Ethics Team Decision Making; Fallon Morrison- Business Services Marketing; Kaitlyn Taylor- Business Services Marketing; Thomas Armstrong- Food Marketing Services; Carly Nicholas- Food Marketing Services; Kathryn Pringle- Hotel and Lodging Management; Erin Readie- Human Resource Management; Kaitlin Ciuba- Marketing Communications Services; Christian Rivera- Quick Serve Marketing; Madison Howells- Restaurant and Food Services Management; Chloe Levy- Sports and Entertainment Marketing; Justin Marko- Sports and Entertainment Marketing; Steven Shore- Sports and Entertainment Marketing; Erin Infante- Sports and Entertainment Marketing; and Daniel Allen and Ryan Malko- Sports and Entertainment Team Decision Making

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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The annual membership drive of the Friends of the Cranford Public Library is underway. Founded in 1979, the Friends of the Cranford Public Library support the library in dozens of ways, including sponsorship of the international film series, the adult, teen, and children's summer reading programs, the adult winter reading program, the Literary Café book discussion program, play readings by the Theater Project, and story time yoga sessions for children. The Friends also purchase furniture and equipment for the library, fund an annual library studies scholarship, and fund the library's highly popular museum pass and book club kit programs. In addition, the Friends make substantial contributions to the library book budget. The Friends ask that you help support the library by becoming a member or by renewing your membership. The annual membership fee is only \$10.00 (\$5.00 for senior citizens and students). Membership applications are available at the main desk of the library and can also be found at cranfordlibrary.org/friends.php.

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Library hours are Monday to Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Thursday and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ROCK HISTORIAN WILL PRESENT TWO PROGRAMS AT LIBRARY

Rock historian Vincent Bruno will present two programs in February on the popular music of the 1960s. Both programs will take place at the Cranford Community Center, located at 220 Walnut Avenue. The first lecture, "The Sixties: The British Invasion," will take place on Wednesday, February 15, at 7:00 p.m. and will focus on the rise of the British pop and rock acts that invaded American shores in the 1960s. From pop groups (The Beatles, The Animals, The Dave Clark 5, The Kinks) to psychedelic and progressive bands (The Who, Pink Floyd, Cream, Traffic), Mr. Bruno will explore highlights from landmark recordings that clearly defined this British pop renaissance era. The presentation will also touch on aspects of British popular culture (cinema, fashion, TV, and UK underground) whose influence added to this remarkable period.

Mr. Bruno's second presentation, "The Sixties: The American Pop/Rock Era," will take place on

Thursday, February 23, at 7:00 p.m. The lecture explores the rise of the many innovative artists who created new sounds that captivated a generation, and whose influence endures five decades later. From the remarkable Brill Building songwriters (Burt Bacharach, Carol King) to the art of Bob Dylan, from Phil Spector's Wall of Sound, to the California magic of Brian Wilson and the Beach Boys, Mr. Bruno will examine folk, rock, R&B, and pop, as well as the rock festivals that defined the era. Each program is two-hours long and both include audio-clips and slides.

Vincent Bruno is a rock historian with a focus on The Beatles and the 1960s. In addition to his work as a rock historian, Mr. Bruno has taught in a number of settings for more than 35 years. The programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. Admission is free and all are welcome.

LIBRARY FAMILY PROGRAMS

What could be more fun than creating an awesome blanket fort? Doing it at the library, of course! Bring an old sheet or blanket and a pillow and stay past close to create a fort to read in. We'll start this after-hours library program with some snacks and stories, and end it by taking over the library! Join us on Friday, February 17 at 4:45 p.m., no registration required.

"iDiscover Coding," a monthly introduction to computer programming for children in grades 1-

3 and 4-6. Each class will acquaint children with a coding concept through the use of fun, educational apps.

Students will create interactive stories, animation, and even video games! Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28 at 7:00 for grades 4-6. "iDiscover Coding" will meet on the first Tuesday of each month for grades 1-3, and the last Tuesday of the month for children in grades 4-6.

LIBRARY EXHIBIT THE BILL OF RIGHTS AND YOU

The Cranford Public Library recently began hosting a new pop-up exhibition from the National Archives, The Bill of Rights and You, commemorating the 225th anniversary of the ratification of this landmark document.

The Bill of Rights and You spotlights one of the most remarkable periods in American history, explores the origins of the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution (collectively known as the Bill of Rights), illustrates how each amendment protects U.S. citizens, and looks at how Americans exercise the rights outlined in the amendments. The Bill of Rights and You invites visitors to connect directly with the people, places, and events that mark this historic document's evolution. The exhibit runs through February 28, 2017.

The Bill of Rights and You co-curator Jennifer Johnson states, "The Bill of Rights represents the

Founder's vision that it would be the people, through votes, that could change the Constitution with enough consensus. And when the people desired a Bill of Rights, our first ten amendments were added to our governing charter."

The Bill of Rights and You is organized by the National Archives and Records Administration and traveled by the National Archives Traveling Exhibits Service (NATES). The exhibition was developed in collaboration with the National Archives' National Outreach Initiative to commemorate the 225th Anniversary of the Bill of Rights.

The exhibition is presented in part by AT&T, Seedlings Foundation, and the National Archives Foundation. This exhibit is brought to you in collaboration with the New Jersey Council for the Humanities and the Federation of State Humanities Councils.

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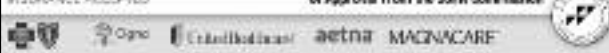
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CATHERINE FELEGI RECIPIENT OF CRANFORD'S MARTIN LUTHER KING AWARD

Catherine Felegi, organizer of Operation Warm Heart - First Presbyterian Church of Cranford (FPCC) chapter was the recipient of the annual CLERGY COUNCIL OF CRANFORD'S MARTIN LUTHER KING AWARD. The award is given to someone who has made contributions to the cause of improving the community in such areas as civil and human rights, social justice, social action or demonstrated concern for the welfare of others. The commemorative service and award presentation was held on January 12th at the First Baptist Church of Cranford.

Felegi has always been deeply involved with helping those less fortunate, whether it was sleeping over as a volunteer for the FPCC's other sleepover program for those suffering from homelessness, FISH Hospitality Program Inc; serving at the Cranford-Elmora Soup Kitchen since 2005; or spending time at the Community FoodBank of New Jersey. She started Operation Warm Heart - FPCC chapter in Dec 2013, working closely with the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless to establish a chapter in Cranford after reading an article about a man in Bridgeton, NJ who was suffering from homelessness and passed away from hypothermia after seeking warmth on a frigid night. That event combined with other personal stories drove Felegi to want to start a program to help those suffering such dire straits.

"It's frightening to think about how some people are just a fire away, an unemployment away, only a few dollars away from homelessness," states Felegi. "We as a community should feel empowered to do something to end the cycle of homelessness and to assist these people to help them rise above their current trials and be self-sufficient again." At the 2016 New Jersey Point-In-Time Count, on the night of Jan 26, 2016, 8,941 persons were experiencing homelessness with 46% reporting some sort of disability. 513 of the total individuals who were homeless were in Union County.

Felegi's chapter of Operation Warm Heart works with the greater community to help empower both the volunteers, as well as the guests who sleep at the church. All volunteers find a place. Some volunteers help with basic sewing repairs, such as fixing hems and sewing buttons. Others play games with the guests to help them feel more welcome at the church. Lawyer Harry McDevitt offers legal counsel to guests in need. Social worker Mary McTernan gives helpful advice. Nurses work on a rotating schedule to give blood pressure readings. Linden resident Camilo Castillo assists with translating Spanish for anyone in need.

Cranford-Elmora Soup Kitchen coordinator Jean Wands dedicates time to give out socks and other materials that might be needed. Hair stylists Lauren Curley of Styles Street and Lynne Fitzpatrick of Guillotine Salon and Spa alternate cutting hair and trimming beards. A multitude of clothing sits on the stage of the gym where guests can search and take at their leisure. Guests are also welcome to take showers and do laundry. Various houses of worship, such as St. Mark's AME Church - Cranford, First Baptist Church - Cranford, Osceola Presbyterian Church in Clark and the Calvary Lutheran Church Confirmation class cook meals for the guests to enjoy. Every once in a while, volunteers will offer their special talents, such as Cranford-local piano instructor Mel Freda in conjunction with singer Joe Conboy, who regaled everyone with Christmas carols at the Dec 20th hosting.

Not only do people volunteer their time and energy, they also volunteer their materials. Support the Girls in Springfield donated feminine hygiene products this year for the guests to take as they need. Emily's Hats for Hope Initiative gave a large collection of hats, scarves, and gloves, all hand-made. The award-winning Vanilla Bean Creamery gave lots of ice cream for the eager guests.

"I never thought that my chapter of Warm Heart would end up being this big," states Felegi.

"It's really exciting to watch the guests and volunteers interact, watch the volunteers take this program and make it into something that is more beautiful than I could ever imagine, and see those who are benefiting from this program rise out of their current circumstances."

Felegi hopes to keep expanding and improving the program as time moves on, with the goals of making her chapter more environmentally friendly for the 2017-2018 hosting year, citing that rising sea levels could drive more than 100 million people into extreme poverty and submerge the homes of over half a billion.

"The goal is constant improvement," states Felegi. "The program will keep working to being better and better serve the homeless community."

Operation Warm Heart is a program developed by the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless, which has helped find emergency housing for more than 10,000 households. Through the program, 14-20 individuals are housed in various houses of worship throughout Union County from December to March. The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford (FPCC) is continuing their commitment for its third year to aid this worthy cause.

To learn more about the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless, call (908) 355-2060, or email info@theelizabethcoalition.org. To learn more about Operation Warm Heart - FPCC chapter, call Catherine Felegi at (908) 578-8500 or email Catherine.Felegi@gmail.com. To learn more about The Clergy Council of Cranford, call Cindy Hannen at (908) 272-9133 or email her at cindy@patwin.com.

ABOUT THE CLERGY COUNCIL OF CRANFORD: The Clergy Council of Cranford consists of members from all houses of worship in Cranford, and Osceola Church in Clark. The group has sponsored anti-bullying events, service days, and interfaith religious services. To learn more about Clergy Council of Cranford, contact Cindy Hannen at cindy@patwin.com, or call her at (908) 272-9133.



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RICK MIKULA "THE BUTTERFLY GUY"

Award Winning Author & President of
Butterfly Rescue International

"FUN WITH BUGS" (Even in the Snow!)



Saturday, Feb. 11th @10am
Cranford Community Center
220 Walnut Ave, Cranford, NJ

Butterfly Rick will be covering the amazing insects that live in our backyards and parks. He will show everyone how to locate and appreciate insects in the winter and even in snowy weather. Rick will be showcasing LIVE butterflies. He will show just how easy it is to care for them.

This wonderful program is great for insect lovers of all ages!

No registration required, but seating is available on a first-come, first-serve basis, so please arrive early! For more information please visit the Hanson Park Conservancy's website
www.hansonparkconservancy.com
or our Facebook page.

"FUN WITH BUGS (EVEN IN THE SNOW!)" WITH RICK MIKULA "THE BUTTERFLY GUY"

Please join the Hanson Park Conservancy as we welcome back Rick Mikula, "The Butterfly Guy," as he presents his program, "Fun With Bugs (Even in the Snow!)" on Saturday, February 11th at 10:00 a.m. at the Cranford Community Center. Butterfly Rick will be covering the amazing insects that live in our backyards and parks. He will show everyone how to locate and appreciate insects in the winter and even in the snowy weather. Rick will be showcasing LIVE butterflies and will demonstrate just how easy it is to care for them. This wonderful program is free and will appeal to insect lovers of all ages!

For over 35 years, Rick Mikula has been engaging audiences with his humorous way of looking at butterflies. He is currently President of Butterfly Rescue International and serves as consultant to both the Association for Butterflies and The International Butterfly Breeders

Association. Rick is also the pioneer and inventor of releasing butterflies at weddings and funerals and has helped to make it a global phenomenon. He wrote the award-winning, The Family Butterfly Book. And he has designed several live butterfly exhibits including the Hershey Butterfly House, the exhibit at Clyde Peeling's Reptiland and at Dollywood. To learn more about Rick Mikula please visit his website, www.butterflyrick.com.

The Cranford Community Center is located at 220 Walnut Ave. in Cranford, NJ. No registration is required, but seating is available on a first-come, first-serve basis, so please arrive early! This program is sponsored by the Hanson Park Conservancy.

To learn more, please visit our website, www.hansonparkconservancy.com or like us on Facebook.



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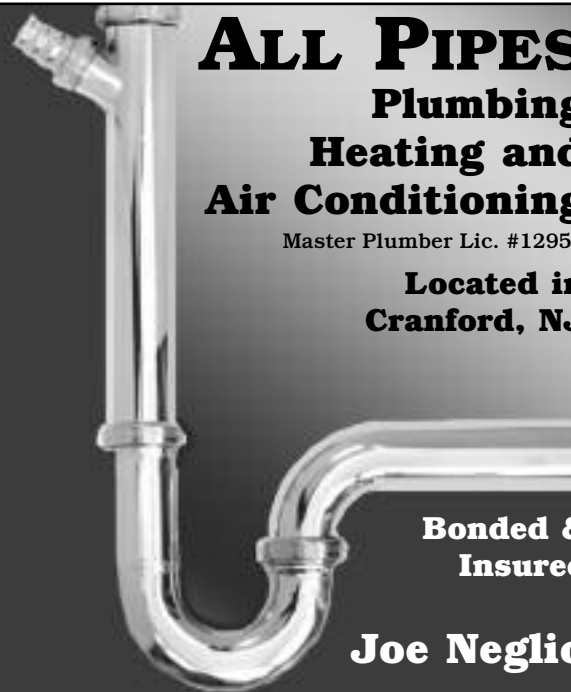
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CRANFORD COMMUNITY CENTER TAKING APPOINTMENTS FOR TAX COUNSELING

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department in conjunction with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) will be taking appointments for free tax assistance. Cranford and Garwood taxpayers can call the Recreation and Parks Department at 709-7283 to reserve a time slot time with a tax practitioner. Hourly appointments are being made on either Mondays or Fridays beginning Friday, February 3, 2017 from 12:00pm, 1:30pm and 3 p.m. All appointments will be at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Avenue in Room 204. The last appointment to receive tax assistance will be Monday April 10, 2017. No appointments will be made on Monday, February 20, 2017 (Presidents' Day) and Friday, April 14, 2017 (Good Friday), as the Community Center will be closed. This

service is for residents of Cranford and Garwood, and is geared to senior citizens and area residents with low to moderate income. Filing assistance is provided for federal and NJ state income tax returns, and the Property Tax Reimbursement Program (PTR 1&2). Federal and state returns are filed electronically.

Participants should bring the following information: copies of Federal and State returns for 2015 along with 2016 wages, interest, dividends, capital gains, social security, etc. (forms 1099, 1099R, 1099B-W2 and SSA), and Property tax bill (2016).

A form of identification and, if requesting direct deposit or payment, please bring a blank check showing account number and routing number.

SERVICE PROJECT

*Submitted by Angel Eimer
Teacher Orange Avenue School*

Orange Avenue School teachers in Cranford collaborated on a service event in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr Day. On Tuesday, January 17 after school, teachers brought in donations and worked as a team to make 150 sandwiches to be donated to St. Joseph's Social Service Center in Elizabeth. The event promoted unity amongst our staff in support of a local charity.



SENIOR NEWS

MONDAY MORNING MOVIES

Monday, February 6, 2017- Captain Phillips Biography/Drama/Thriller, Starring: Tom Hanks, Barkhad Abdi

Monday, February 13, 2017- The Meddler Drama, Starring: Susan Sarandon, Rose Byrne
Movies are shown in the Audio Visual Room starting at 11:15 am, 2nd Floor, Cranford Community Center.

Cranford Resident's only. For additional information please call (908) 709-7283.

FRIDAY SENIOR CLUB

The Friday Senior Club of Cranford sponsors a trip the second Wednesday of the month to **Resorts Casino at Atlantic City February 8th, March 8th and April 12th**. The bus leaves from the Centennial Avenue Pool parking lot at 11:00 a.m. and will return to Cranford 7:00 p.m. the cost is \$30.00 with a \$25.00 slot play back. Contact Helen @ (908) 654-1236 for Reservations.



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THREE CRANFORD RESIDENTS AMONG NEW CASA VOLUNTEERS

On December 14, 2016 Union County Superior Court Judge Daniel R. Lindemann administered oaths to two graduating classes of community members — among them Julie Exarhakos, Mike McMahon and Deana Washburn of Cranford — who've stepped up to serve as extra eyes and ears for Family Court judges on cases involving the county's abused, neglected or abandoned children currently in foster care. Of the two classes, one had 19 participants, including CASA of Union County's new executive director, Marla Higginbotham. The second is the result of the nonprofit offering for the first time a five-session, intensive day training at its offices, and included nine volunteers.

The new CASA volunteers completed 30 hours of training. After performing the oaths, Judge Lindemann stepped off the bench and personally thanked each advocate for committing to serve children in need of a voice. Members of the organization's board participated, and each new advocate received a commemorative pin and certificate. During celebratory luncheons that followed, advocates were matched to their new case and learned about their youth.

Volunteers with varied backgrounds and experiences make successful advocates, and these classes are no exception: They range in age from 22 to 75 and most have no prior knowledge of the foster system. They include parents, non-parents and empty-nesters; a recent college graduate and recent retiree; careers include health professionals, school personnel, counselors, legal professionals, former military, business entrepreneurs and homemakers. Languages spoken in addition to English include Spanish, German, French and Yoruba. Several experienced abuse in their own childhoods.

William "Joe" Goodson of Plainfield, a CASA volunteer years ago who returned to help another child now that his own schedule allowed, said this work is a calling. "I know the situation in the African-American community, and I want to give back. I've been there and done that. We need more positive role models for these children who need us. I can make a difference and be someone they relate to, and that's what I'm looking for." Goodson added that on Thanksgiving, his CASA youth weighed heavily on his mind: "I'm looking at a table full of food and family and thinking of him, wondering, 'Is he ok, today?'"

CASA volunteers have court-ordered access to all parties in a child's life,

including foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, and incorporate into court reports findings from these contacts as well as time spent with the youth. Volunteers advocate both in the community and court to ensure their youth's needs are met and time in care is as short as possible. There are 600 Union County children currently in foster care; CASA of Union County serves approximately one-third of those and its mission is to provide an advocate for every child that needs one.

For details on future training sessions, several of which incorporate new, flexible options and timeframes, contact Lisa at 908-527-7048 or lporis@casaoofunioncounty.org. To inquire about other ways to support CASA of Union County, contact Marla at 908-527-7041 or marlah@casaoofunioncounty.org.



(above) New CASA volunteers Mike McMahon and Deana Washburn of Cranford, Adesoye Aladegebami of Roselle; Theresa Brown, Michele Higgins, Noreen Horgan, Cheryl Kelesoglu and Marcela Wolff of Westfield; Mary Kitsos of Summit. Not pictured Julie Exarhakos of Cranford.

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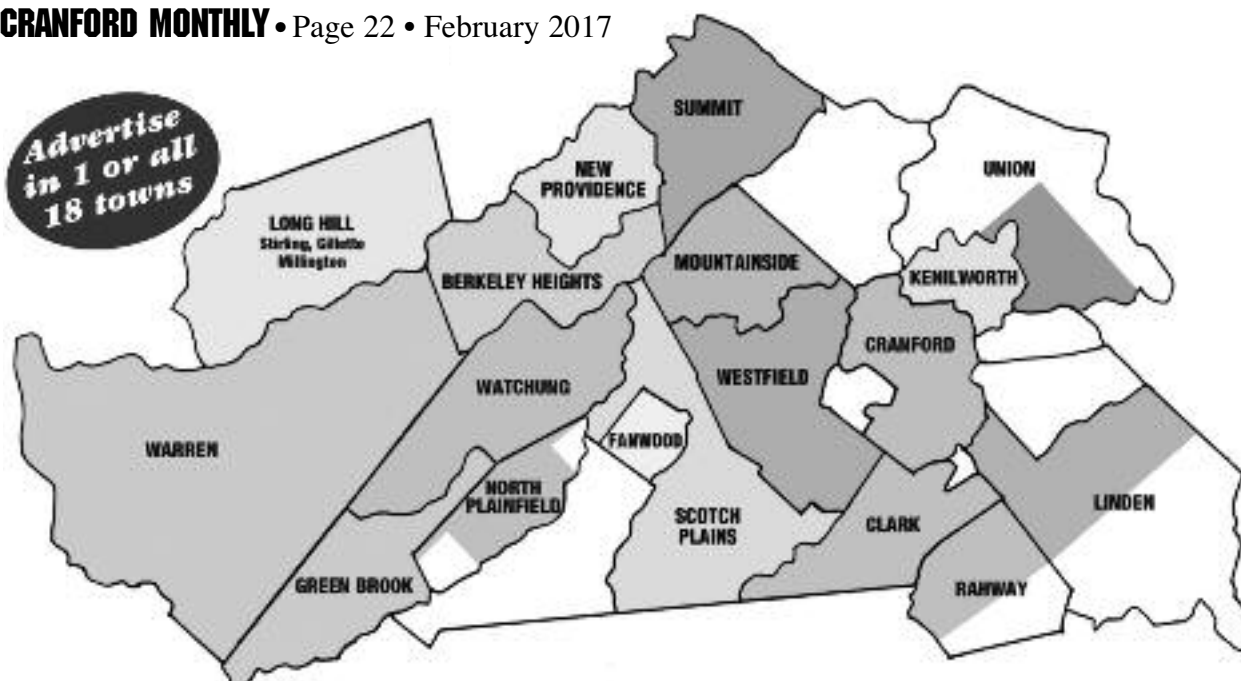
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A CALL FOR HELP: OVERNIGHT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OPERATION WARM HEART

Submitted by Vanessa Checo, - Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless

Our Operation Warm Heart program provides short term shelter at participating church and organization locations scattered throughout Elizabeth, Linden, Cranford, and Rahway for homeless persons who are ineligible for shelter from County Social services. The program operates from December 1 to March 31, and shelters run generally 6 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Additional overnight volunteers are needed to assist site coordinators on specific nights preferably one night a week or bi weekly. Volunteers are given basic training and primarily check in the guests for the night, direct them regarding the facilities and where to set up their cots, and occasionally assist with serving dinner. Most importantly they provide hospitality, oversight, and company to the guests for the night. Guests generally sleep from 11PM to 6AM and most volunteers work out shifts as needed. Cots, blankets, food, and transport are provided by the site or the program.

Persons to be sheltered are prescreened and provided ongoing case management and support services in order to find alternate transitional or long term housing or placement as appropriate, and as soon as possible. The program is not intended as a place for a person to shelter for the 4 months of the season. Generally, we shelter up to 14 persons, more under Code Blue circumstances. Names of those prescreened are provided to the site volunteers in advance. An agency staff person is available by phone at all times.

In summary, volunteers provided a welcome human affirmation for our guests and find the experience very rewarding.

To volunteer or for additional questions please contact me. Vanessa Checo, Operation Warm Heart- Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless, 118 Division St. Elizabeth, NJ 07201, 908-355-2060, vcheco@theelizabethcoalition.org.

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Auto, 4 cyl, p/opts. Stk#170470 MSRP:\$19,540. \$1,669 due at signing. \$0 security. Residual: \$13,651.25. 10k mi/yr; 15c thereafter. \$995 Cap Cost Reduction. ^\$500 Military Appreciation Offer. *\$500 College Graduate Offer.

★ **NEW 2017
Honda Accord LX**

Lease For **\$109** Per Mo /24 Mos

\$1,699 DUE AT SIGNING

Auto, 4 cyl, p/opts. Stk#170518 MSRP:\$23,155. \$1,699 due at signing. \$0 security. Residual: \$14,833.90. 10k mi/yr; 15c thereafter. \$995 Cap Cost Reduction. ^\$500 Military Appreciation Offer. *\$500 College Graduate Offer.

★ **NEW 2017
Honda Accord Hybrid**

Lease For **\$189** Per Mo /36 Mos

\$1,779 DUE AT SIGNING

Auto, 4 cyl, p/opts. Stk#170217 MSRP:\$28,605. \$1,779 due at signing. \$0 security. Residual: \$16,524.40. 10k mi/yr; 15c thereafter. \$995 Cap Cost Reduction. ^\$500 Military Appreciation Offer. *\$500 College Graduate Offer.

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2010 Honda CIVIC LX BUY FOR \$7,466 PLUS TAX & TAGS Auto, 4 cyl, All Wheel Drive. Stk#16506. 98,489 miles	2005 Acura TL BASE SEDAN BUY FOR \$7,688 PLUS TAX & TAGS Auto, V6, All Wheel Drive. Stk#162243A. 93,607 miles	2012 Volkswagen JETTA SE BUY FOR \$8,477 PLUS TAX & TAGS Auto, 5 cyl, All Wheel Drive. Stk#170425. 72,697 miles	2013 Chevrolet CRUZE BUY FOR \$8,977 PLUS TAX & TAGS Auto, 4 cyl, All Wheel Drive. Stk#161693A. 80,395 miles	2007 Subaru LEGACY 2.5i BUY FOR \$9,088 PLUS TAX & TAGS Auto, 4 cyl, All Wheel Drive. Stk#162142B. 82,978 miles

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Prices include all costs to be paid by consumer except for tax, license & registration. ^To qualify for Military Appreciation Offer towards cap reduction or down payment assistance through Honda Financial Services, you must be an active member of military or reserves or have proof of honorable discharge. *To qualify for College Graduate Bonus offer towards cap reduction or down payment assistance through Honda Financial Services, you must have a 4 year degree from an accredited college within 6 months of purchase. Lessee responsible for excess wear & tear at lease end for mileage excess of \$10,000 mi/yr @ 15c/mile thereafter. MSRP does not include destination & handling. Offers cannot be combined. Exclusions may apply. See dealer for details. Offer expires 2/25/17.