

Cranford Chronicle

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CRANFORD • GARWOOD • KENILWORTH

Thursday, February 4, 1999

50 cents

Briefs

Scouts to serve fish and chips

CRANFORD — Boy Scout Troop 75 will be hosting a Fish and Chips Dinner Friday, Feb. 12, at the Cranford United Methodist Church, 201 Lincoln Avenue East.

Seatings are 5:15, 6:30 and 7:15 p.m.; no reservations are needed. Cost is \$8.50 for adults and \$4.25 for children ages 4-10.

Takeout (either fish or chicken nuggets) is also available. Call Donna Pedde at 272-2862 to order tickets or for more information.

Township bus sets special trips

CRANFORD — The Recreation and Parks Department has announced that the township bus will make special trips to Bradlees and ShopRite on Tuesday and again on Wednesday, Feb. 24.

There will be regular pickups at senior housing if you do not live in senior housing and need bus service, call (908) 709-7283.

Regular afternoon bus service will not be provided Tuesday or Feb. 24.

Guiditta to hold office hours

CRANFORD — Commissioner Nicholas A. Guiditta III will hold office hours 10 a.m.-noon Saturday in Room 108 at the Municipal Building.

Library to close for Presidents Day

KENILWORTH — The Kenilworth Public Library will be closed Monday, Feb. 15 for Presidents Day. It will reopen 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16.

Garwood program registration set

GARWOOD — Registration for the 1999-2000 Title I prekindergarten and kindergarten programs will be held at the Washington School 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Feb. 17-19.

Children reaching 4 years of age by Oct. 1, 1999 are eligible for assessment for the district's Title I prekindergarten program. In order to enter kindergarten, children must reach 5 years of age by Oct. 1, 1999.

Parents/guardians must bring the following to registration: an original birth certificate, the child's Social Security number, immunization records and proof of residency in Garwood.

'Relay for Life' kicks off Feb. 11

The American Cancer Society will begin its "Relay for Life" program with a kickoff event 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11 at the Tavern in the Park, 147 W. Westfield Ave., Roselle Park.

"Relay for Life" is a team event to fight cancer. Seating for the event is limited.

For reservations, call (908) 354-7373 by Wednesday.

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GEORGE PACCIELLO/THE CHRONICLE
Bernard Flashberg, Cranford's and Union County's Teacher of the Year, has a good grip on this memento as well as his goals for his students.

Educator has been shaping students' lives for 30 years

Flashberg named county's Teacher of the Year

By ALEC MOORE
THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — High school social studies teacher Bernard Flashberg speaks softly, but carries a big bat and has a big impact on his students.

Flashberg was recently honored as the Union County Teacher of the Year for the 1998-99 school year and as Cranford's Teacher of the Year for that same period.

Flashberg was somewhat surprised to receive the county-wide honor.

"It's really somewhat mind boggling," he said pointing out that there are a great number of exceptional teachers in Union County and that he considers it a great honor receive the award and distinctive title as teacher of the year.

"In spite of all the other teachers in the county, it's very gratifying to be given this award," he said.

As a teacher Flashberg is committed to helping his students to break the barriers of limitation that they may have imposed upon themselves. With 30 years of teaching experience

under his belt, Flashberg has plenty of spark and ingenuity to fire up his students' enthusiasm about learning.

Flashberg, a resident of Union, graduated from Rutgers University with a bachelor of arts degree in history in 1969 and later earned a Master's Degree in education from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Flashberg arrived at the Cranford school system in 1969 as a social studies teacher at the Hillside Avenue School, which encompassed grades 7-10 at that time.

Four years later when the high school was expanded in 1973, Flashberg began teaching social studies there. He's been there ever since.

Flashberg has found that the most effective way to help students to achieve success in any given subject is to eliminate the intimidation factor and instill within the students a genuine appreciation of the subject, which leads to understanding.

One of the ways that Flashberg accomplishes this is through the utilization of a variety of

(Continued on page A-2)

Police probe ends check cashing scam

By ALEC MOORE
THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — Two men were arrested in the morning hours Saturday in connection with an alleged stolen check cashing conspiracy that stemmed from a case involving the theft of payroll checks from a Cranford business.

The two men, Mack McLeod, 21, and Marvin McLeod, 22, were arrested during a 4 a.m. raid at the residence of the two brothers in the Prince Street projects in Newark. The raid was coordinated and carried out by Detective Sergeant Francis Hanley and Detective Donald Zsask of the Cranford Police Department.

The raid on the McLeod brothers' residence was the direct result of an extensive investigation conducted by the Detective Bureau of the Cranford Police Department headed by Hanley and Zsask.

The McLeod brothers, along with three other men, are allegedly

part of the ring of thieves that stole numerous payroll checks from a temporary employment agency business located on South Avenue. The Cranford police have identified one of the three other men and have issued an active warrant for his arrest.

Cranford Police Detective Lieutenant Stephen Wilde said the thieves involved in the theft of the stolen payroll checks were leaving a "paper trail" when they cashed, or attempt to cash, the stolen checks, and it was through this paper trail that Hanley and Zsask were able to locate and arrest the McLeod brothers.

In addition to being charged with conspiracy to cash a stolen check, Marvin McLeod also faces charges stemming from a carjacking incident that he allegedly committed in Newark.

Both Mack McLeod and Marvin McLeod were transported to the county jail and held on \$5,000-bail following their arrest.

Borough says 'thanks' for lighting the season

By MICHAEL CASEY
CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENT

KENILWORTH — The council last week used the January thaw to thank a select group for having warmed the community spirits during the holiday season.

External home holiday decorating has apparently become a fashionable practice in the borough in recent years and the council rewarded winning families in each district with a \$25 cash award for their efforts.

Along with a Certificate of Appreciation to Michael Astone — a local landscaping contractor — for bringing the festive mood to Borough Hall, the council honored the flickering lights in each district. The Holiday House Decorating Contest Winners were: District 1: Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Diamante; District 2: Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Vacarella; District 3: Mr. and Mrs. John Cantalupo; District 4: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Madden; District 5:

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Tomko; District 6: Mr. and Mrs. William Urban.

Mr. Madden said he had spent "seven or eight days stringing lights." His son Joey said he had "helped with the rounds," mildly suggesting that it was, in fact, the strength of this year's family display. Mr. Madden said the "competition is getting fierce" with a not so far away look of red, green and white bulb configurations in his eyes.

Mayor Michael Tripodi and the council heartily thanked all the winners and suggested that a photo of Mr. Astone's efforts would be featured on this year's Mayoral Holiday Greeting Card.

Kenilworth KLIPS: Petitions: Marian Ramondi asked the council to consider providing Senior Citizens Housing. Communications: \$15,896.56 check from Comcast represents the franchise fee for the month of December, 1998.

(Continued on page A-2)

House's exterior restoration done ahead of schedule

CRANFORD — Exterior restoration of the Cranford Historical Society's Crane-Phillips House Living Museum has been completed ahead of schedule. Cranford's only National Historic Site now looks outside exactly as it did in 1870, when Craneville was just becoming Cranford.

The work was the second phase of a four-step plan to completely restore the Museum, inside and out, to the way it looked in the late Victorian period of 1870-1900 when the Phillips family owned the house.

The outside work, expected to be com-

pleted by mid-1999, was helped to an early completion by a number of factors, including a successful fund drive and a dry, mild fall. The exterior was finished by Jan. 1, 1999.

"The response to our 'new look' has been overwhelmingly positive," said Addie Vogel, co-chairwoman of the Crane-Phillips House Committee. "Both old and young alike seem to love the Victorian colors. In fact, a number of people have asked about the contractor. We're hoping this may even start a trend."

White with green shutters through-

much of this century, the house is now once again dressed in the green and red color scheme it wore in the Victorian Era.

"It was very important for us to restore the house to the way it was meant to look," said Don Widdows, Museum Historian. "People got used to seeing it the way it was, but the way it was, was wrong."

When someone occasionally remarks that they want the Museum to look old rather than new, Society members explain that it now looks even older than before.

The original color scheme was uncov-

ered by Historic Paint Expert Cynthia Hinson of Historic Preservation and Illumination, Inc. of Princeton.

"I didn't think the house was white, but we were certainly lucky to find such a wonderful color scheme," she stated. Research by Ms. Hinson entailed taking paint chips from various places on the house and analyzing them in a laboratory setting with a special microscope that allows one to see the many paint layers and colors.

The little Victorian cottage was designed after the architectural style of

(Continued on page A-2)



Before and after: Exterior renovations on the Crane-Phillips House Museum have returned the once-white house, left, back to its original green and red color scheme, right.

House's exterior restoration is finished ahead of schedule

(Continued from page A-1) Andrew Jackson Downing, the man considered the first true American architect. Downing proposed using colors for home decoration that blended with nature, like the greens and reds used on the Crane-Phillips House.

The contractors were very reasonable with their bids, said Loretta Widdows, co-chair, woman of the Crane-Phillips House Committee. "Our architect was instrumental in finding people who would work with what we had to work with."

The original four-step plan for the full restoration of the Crane-Phillips House was developed by Historic Architect Herbert Githens. It was Githens who handled the bidding process for contractors.

Borough says 'thanks'

(Continued from page A-1) Committee reports. The Finance Committee reported on a March 24 budget meeting.

For example, in teaching a new course about the Holocaust, Flashberg and his students held a bake sale for people who had helped Jews to escape persecution at the hands of the Nazis during the World War II.

Flashberg indicated that the students can identify with a particular period of history and recognize it as a real event that took place rather than as something that is only written about in history books then they gain a greater sense of appreciation of those past events as something that helped to shape the world around them today.

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NICOLE DIMELLA/THE CHRONICLE

Handy fun

Melissa Hoffman, 7, tries her hand at making a wallet at the Jan. 24 Girl Scout Winter Carnival at Cranford High School.

Flashberg named Teacher of the Year

(Continued from page A-1) Flashberg's commitment to helping kids to excel has never been limited solely to his role as a teacher in the classroom.

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Grandmother's winning ticket makes for a 'super' birthday

What sports enthusiast would not glow at the prospect of attending the 1999 Super Bowl in Miami? Ron Komar and his 14-year-old son, Craig, attended the sports extravaganza as a result of a fundraiser for the Center For Hope Hospice.

Craig's grandmother, Rose Polny of Cranford, won the tickets and although she was aged several thousand dollars for the prize, she chose to give them to Craig for his 14th birthday.

Throughout his teaching career he has always been involved in a wide range of extracurricular activities that ranges from the baseball diamond to the courtroom.

As the advisor to Cranford High School's mock trial team, Flashberg's guidance helped CHS to capture 11 Union County mock trial championships over the past 15 years.

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Grandmother's winning ticket makes for a 'super' birthday

Currently Craig is beginning to participate in basketball with some restrictions. Craig and his father shared a unique experience in Miami.

"Who buys a raffle ticket thinking they're going to win?" — Rose Polny Cranford

Throughout the 1997 and 1998 basketball seasons, he continued to sit on the bench in support of his team. He received the "spirit award" from his traveling basketball team in recognition of his attitude and display of team spirit.

Editor's note: The following is a corrected version of a story which appeared in last week's newspaper. The Chronicle regrets the errors.

Town honors firefighters, police for their efforts

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Countdown to curtain

Cranford Dramatic Club's President Bob Pells and the executive board, left to right, Marilyn Court, Liz Howard, Phyllis Damak, Kate Stein and Madge Wittel, are awaiting the club's upcoming productions.

Tuskegee Airmen to speak at Cranford Library

CRANFORD — Three members of the Tuskegee Airmen, an Army Air Corps unit that served during World War II,

Pennies will aid Girl Scouts

CRANFORD — The Cranford Jaycees are sponsoring a "Penny Challenge" this month to benefit the Girl Scouts.

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