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Lee Blowe to Be Cranford's 2019 Parade Grand Marshal

CRANFORD — Local veteran Lee Blowe has been selected by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 335 and Steve Robertazzi, director of the Cranford Parks and Recreation Department, to be this year's grand marshal of Cranford's annual Memorial Day Parade.

Mr. Blowe, a former sergeant, was a combat squadron leader with Charlie Company of the 1st Marine Division in and around Chu Li, Vietnam, during 1966. He and his wife, Karen, have lived in Cranford for 22 years. They reside with their 17-year-old twin children, Patrick and Catherine, who attend the Technology Academy and Allied Science Programs, respectively, at Union County Vocational-Technical High School in Scotch Plains.

"Memorial Day is a very special day for me," Mr. Blowe explained. "It's a day I sadly remember all my buddies who didn't come home from Vietnam, like I did. For that reason alone, I am truly honored to be our grand marshal this year."

Mr. Blowe, a recent retiree, spent 35 years as a chief operational manager in the Walgreens Drug Store chain. His primary function with Walgreens was establishing and setting up new store locations for the company and getting them up and running as working, profitable entities.

Born and raised in rural Murfreesboro, N.C., Mr. Blowe has become a well-known and active part of the greater Cranford community. He currently is a

member of the Chamber of Commerce in the township and the Memorial Day Parade Committee. At the Cranford VFW, he is senior vice commander, Buddy Poppy chairman and a member of its Post No. 335 Centennial Celebration Committee.

The Cranford Memorial Day Parade will step off from the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Avenue, promptly at 9 a.m. on Monday, May 27, and finish with services at Memorial Park on Springfield Avenue at approximately 10 a.m.



Local Letter to the Editor

Private Business Should Not Profit From Public Parkland

Why do the Union County Freeholders and County Manager Ed Oatman allow a private business to operate on taxpayer-funded Union County parkland? I'm talking about the River and Rail Cantina in Cranford that sits next to the Rahway River Parkway.

What was once lovely public parkland has been turned into an eroded dustbowl and gaming field for the restaurant's customers. It is covered with plastic games, cigarette butts, broken glass, bottle caps and plastic drinking straws despite being adjacent to the Rahway River.

That is all county parkland that exists to absorb rainwater, sup-

ported by our tax dollars. The restaurant does not rent that land. The Cranford Township Committee, Freeholder Chair Bette Jane Kowalski, and the rest of the Union County Freeholders, should demand it be restored to its former beauty.

The owners of River and Rail should volunteer for an immediate clean up and resowing of the county land they have eroded. If they refuse, their landlords or the county should charge them for the clean up. Private business should not profit from public land.

Steve Russo
Garwood

PSE&G Community Meeting on Line Attracks 240

the men working with it in a laboratory." However, he said penta is the industry standard.

"It's important to understand that treated utility poles do not pose a significant risk to people, animals, or the environment," Mr. Freeman said.

He said penta is a regulated pesticide registered for use as a wood preservative in utility poles and regulated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Penta has been used for over 80 years as 183 million utility poles are treated with penta, stated Mr. Freeman. Penta helps

preserve the structural integrity of a pole, ensuring fewer trees are needed as replacement poles.

"There have been no known incidents associated with penta-treated utility poles and customer hazards," Ms. Mazzarella added. "Penta poles are safer for utility workers to climb. All the existing poles set for replacement contain penta."

Mr. Quinn said he was "outraged" PSE&G has not taken the time to test the soil or groundwater surrounding existing poles

Hist. Soc. to Present Hanson House Tour

CRANFORD — The Cranford Historical Society will host a tour of the Hanson House on Sunday, June 2. Doors will open at 2 p.m., with the tour beginning at 2:15 p.m. The house is located at 38 Springfield Avenue, Cranford.

After hearing a brief history of the Hanson House, attendees will learn about the lives of Cranford artists Leslie and Alice Crump and will view the Historical Society's collection of their art.

Visitors will then be taken on a tour of the Society's collections of costumes by its curator. Afterward, they will have the opportunity to visit the Fridlington Room, where research into the history of Cranford and its homes takes place.

Admission is free and open to the public. Interested persons are asked to RSVP by Thursday, May 30. For more information, email the Society at cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net or call the office at (908) 276-0082.

treated with penta.

"Lead paint, second-hand smoke, cigarettes, excessive ultraviolet radiation exposure and asbestos were all considered standards as well," said resident David Pringle, previously the campaign director for Clean Water Action.

Livingston Avenue third-grade student David Ursic said, "These poles could kill the lives of children. Several hundred children live by these poles. All my friends."

"PSE&G believes the project will have no permanent impact on property values," said Ms. Mazzarella.

She said studies have "proven" after the "initial installation phase" that property values return to normal.

The new poles will have the same spacing "in between them" as the existing poles, stated Ms. Mazzarella. She said the replacement poles will range from 65 feet to 75 feet in height.

PSE&G notified Cranford officials about this project in January. PSE&G presented project information to the Cranford Township Committee on April 8 at a workshop meeting.

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