



Legal Newspaper for Union County, Cranford



Garden Historian to Discuss 'Little House' Landscapes

CRANFORD — The Hanson Park Conservancy will welcome Marta McDowell, author of "The World of Laura Ingalls Wilder: The Frontier Landscapes that Inspired the Little House Books," on Tuesday, April 23, at 7 p.m., at the Cranford Community Center.

A garden historian, Ms. McDowell will take her audience on a journey with the beloved "Little House" series as attendees explore Wilder's deep relationship to the landscape. Throughout, participants will learn details about Wilder's life and inspirations, discover how to visit the real places today, and even learn to grow the plants and vegetables featured in the stories.

The plants, animals and landscapes are so integral to the stories, they are practically their own characters. It is a world of prairie, forest, farm and garden.

Ms. McDowell lives, writes and gardens in Chatham. She teaches landscape history and horticulture at the New York Botanical Garden and has worked as a horticulturist at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit. She has been a featured speaker at locations ranging from the Arnold Arboretum to the Philadelphia Flower Show. She also wrote "All the Presidents' Gardens," a *New York Times* bestseller, and "Beatrix Potter's Gardening Life."

Ms. McDowell's garden is included in the Smithsonian's Archives of American Gardens.

The Cranford Community Center is located at 220 Walnut Avenue. Ms. McDowell will have copies of her book available for purchase and signing. Purchases may be made with cash or check only. This event is sponsored by the Hanson Park Conservancy. The program is free and open to the public. No registration is required, but seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, go to the Conservancy website, hansonparkconservancy.com.

This history program is made possible in part by a HEART (History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands) Grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Harpist to Present Medieval Music

CRANFORD — The Cranford Historical Society invites the community to an afternoon of medieval music with harpist Michele Mountain.

The program will take place on Sunday, April 28, at 2 p.m., at the Hanson House, located at 38 Springfield Avenue, Cranford. All are welcome.

Ms. Mountain has been entertaining people for more than 30 years on both the East and

Church and Knights To Host Blood Drive

AREA — The Church of the Assumption and the Knights of Columbus will sponsor a blood drive on Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will take place in the Lower Chiego Church Hall, located at 113 Chiego Place, Roselle Park.

Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins also will be welcome. All donors will receive the following free health screenings: cholesterol, blood pressure, temperature, iron, pulse and blood type.

Donors should weigh at least 110 pounds, eat a meal before donating, bring identification and drink plenty of water before and after donating. For more information or to schedule a donation, call (201) 251-3703 or visit vitalant.org.

West Coasts, at events ranging from weddings to historical reenactments. For the upcoming program she will be dressed in a medieval costume and will play music from the period.

To help her audience to understand the music, she will stop occasionally to talk about the composers and the times. Ms. Mountain has made two full-length, independent CDs.

Cranford Library Reveals Upcoming Activities

CRANFORD — The Cranford Public Library has scheduled multiple family events for the second half of March. With the arrival of Spring next week, events for April and May will be announced. The library is located at 224 Walnut Avenue.

The library will participate in New Jersey Makers Day, a statewide celebration of making and maker culture that takes place every March in the Garden State. Children of all ages are invited to come to the library on Saturday, March 23, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., to tinker, play and learn.

The Lego Club will meet on Tuesday, March 19, during which youngsters in kindergarten to grade 6 are invited to free-build and share their work with their friends. Additional sessions will take place on April 16 and May 21. Sessions last from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. No registration is required.

Children in grades 1 to 3 are invited to make a Fish in a Bag craft on Monday, March 25, from 4 to 4:45 p.m. Registration is required and currently is underway. Interested persons may call (908) 709-7272 or stop by the Children's Department to reserve a spot.

Additionally, the library will continue its story time sessions through Thursday, April 11. The library has weekly offerings for children ranging in age from 3 months to 5 years. All story times meet at 10:15 a.m. No registration is required,

but participants are asked to arrive on time as space is limited and the library may be unable to accommodate latecomers.

The library also continues to present iDiscover Coding, a monthly introduction for children to the logic of computer programming. The next session will be on Tuesday, March 26, for those in grades 1 to 3. Registration is not required, but space is limited. This free program is sponsored by a grant from the Union County Freeholders.

Students in grades 4 to 6 are invited to attend a fun series called Unquiet Library, which meets on Thursdays. Participants have an opportunity to watch movies, tinker with robots, play video games and enjoy other activities. The next date is March 21.

For full information about programs available at the Cranford Public Library, visit cranfordlibrary.org.

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