

Marsiglia Family Receives Cranford Historic Preservation Award

CRANFORD — The 2019 Cranford Historic Preservation Award has been presented to the Marsiglia family for their restoration of the Cranford Trust Building. The Marsiglias replaced part of the dentil cornice that had fallen off an area of one of Cranford's historic downtown buildings, making it look like it once did.

At a ceremony in March, Richard, John and Bill Marsiglia and their sister, Paula Manto, were recognized for doing what they stated was, "the right thing to do for Cranford and for the building."

During the presentation, Maureen Strazdon, chairwoman of the Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board, gave a short history of the buildings that have stood at the corner of North and North Union Avenues. The Opera House Block, owned by William Sperry, was built in 1892. On February 3, 1912, a fire leveled the block, resulting in losses over \$125,000 (more than \$3 million in today's dollars).

In April 1912, William Sperry announced that a new three-story building would replace the Opera House Block. That building still stands as a cornerstone of Cranford's downtown.

Meanwhile, the Cranford Na-

tional Bank had opened in 1904 at North Union Avenue and Alden Street, and in January 1912 the Cranford National Bank became the Cranford Trust. The bank's president was William Sperry's brother, Thomas. In December Cranford Trust moved in and the entire building was named for the bank. Today, the Cranford Trust Building is home to a barbershop, an ice cream shop, the bank and other businesses.

Each year the Cranford Historical Society and the Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board jointly present an award to the owner of a residence or business that has undertaken efforts to preserve the character of

Cranford.

Founded in 1927, the Cranford Historical Society is a private organization dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history of Cranford. For more information, visit cranfordhistoricalsociety.com.

The Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board is a township committee established in 1993. Its mission is to aid in the preservation of Cranford's architectural heritage. More information is available at preservcranford.com.

Probitas Verus Honos



HISTORY ENTHUSIASTS...The Marsiglia family recently was honored with the 2019 Cranford Historic Preservation Award for their restoration of the Cranford Trust Building. Pictured, from left to right, are: John Marsiglia, Maureen Strazdon, chairwoman of the Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board, and Rich Marsiglia. John and Rich share the award with their siblings, Bill Marsiglia and Paula Manto.

Rock Historian to Present Program on 'White Album'

CRANFORD — The Friends of the Cranford Public Library will celebrate the sound of the '60s with "The Beatles: The Making of the White Album," on Monday, June 3, at 7 p.m. It will take place at the Cranford Community Center.

Beatles scholar and 1960s rock historian Vincent Bruno will present an entertaining and interactive session for casual listeners as well as hardcore Beatles fans. This lecture will follow the Beatles' journey through the turbulent year of 1968 as they embark on the creation of the group's ninth studio album — The Beatles (also known as "The White Al-

bum").

Participants will explore the genesis of their songs, the influence of transcendental meditation and their increased studio output despite personal and creative differences.

Mr. Bruno is recently retired as the director of First Year Programs at LaGuardia Community College (City University of New York). He holds an MPA from Baruch College and, as an adjunct professor for the past 25 years, he has taught courses in numerous disciplines including humanities, business, mathematics and cooperative education. He currently resides in both New Jersey and Arizona.

No registration is required for this free event. The Cranford Community Center is located at 220 Walnut Avenue and is accessible to all. For more information about the Friends of the Cranford Public Library, visit cranfordlibrary.org.

Library to Feature Summer Reading

CRANFORD — The Cranford Public Library, located at 224 Walnut Avenue, will run its annual Summer Reading Program from June 17 to August 17. Participants will be able to log their reading online through Monday, August 12, and the library's Summer Reading Carnival will be held on Saturday, August 17.

This will be the first time logging has been done online, and staff members will be available to assist anyone who needs help. Participants can download the Beanstack app (recommended) or visit cranfordlibrary.beanstack.org to enroll in the program.

Any adult family member with a library card in good standing will be able to enroll their entire family. There are small incentives and/or prize drawings for both children and adults. The more time children spend reading, the more prizes they will win. For more information, stop by the library or access cranfordlibrary.org.

Open House Is Set At Cranford Pools

CRANFORD — All are invited to attend the Cranford Pools Open House, to be held on Sunday, June 2, from noon to 6 p.m., at both 401 Centennial Avenue and 1025 Orange Avenue, Cranford.

The open house will feature disc jockeys, giveaways and food specials, including half-price ice cream. Participants will have an opportunity to enjoy a swim and to see what the Pool and Fitness Center has to offer.

The Centennial complex is a year-round facility with an indoor pool, multiple outdoor pools and a fitness center. The Orange Avenue facility is a seasonal outdoor pool. For more information, call the Cranford Pool and Fitness Center at (908) 709-7260.

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