



# Cranford Police Department 2011 Annual Report







**Top photo,** Cranford Police Department Memorial Day photo from the early 1980's with young Patrolman Baer. He is the second from the right in the last row.

**Bottom photo,** Cranford Police Department Memorial Day—2011.

**On the cover,** *clockwise from top left*, Captain Baer with his family before his promotional ceremony in 2003; Patrolmen Brian Hand and John Baer display their Medals of Honor received in 1987; Lieutenant Baer in 2000; Patrolman Baer official portrait from 1980; Sergeant Baer saluting the American flag; Lieutenant Thomas Kane and Sergeant Baer reviewing files in the Traffic Division in 1996.

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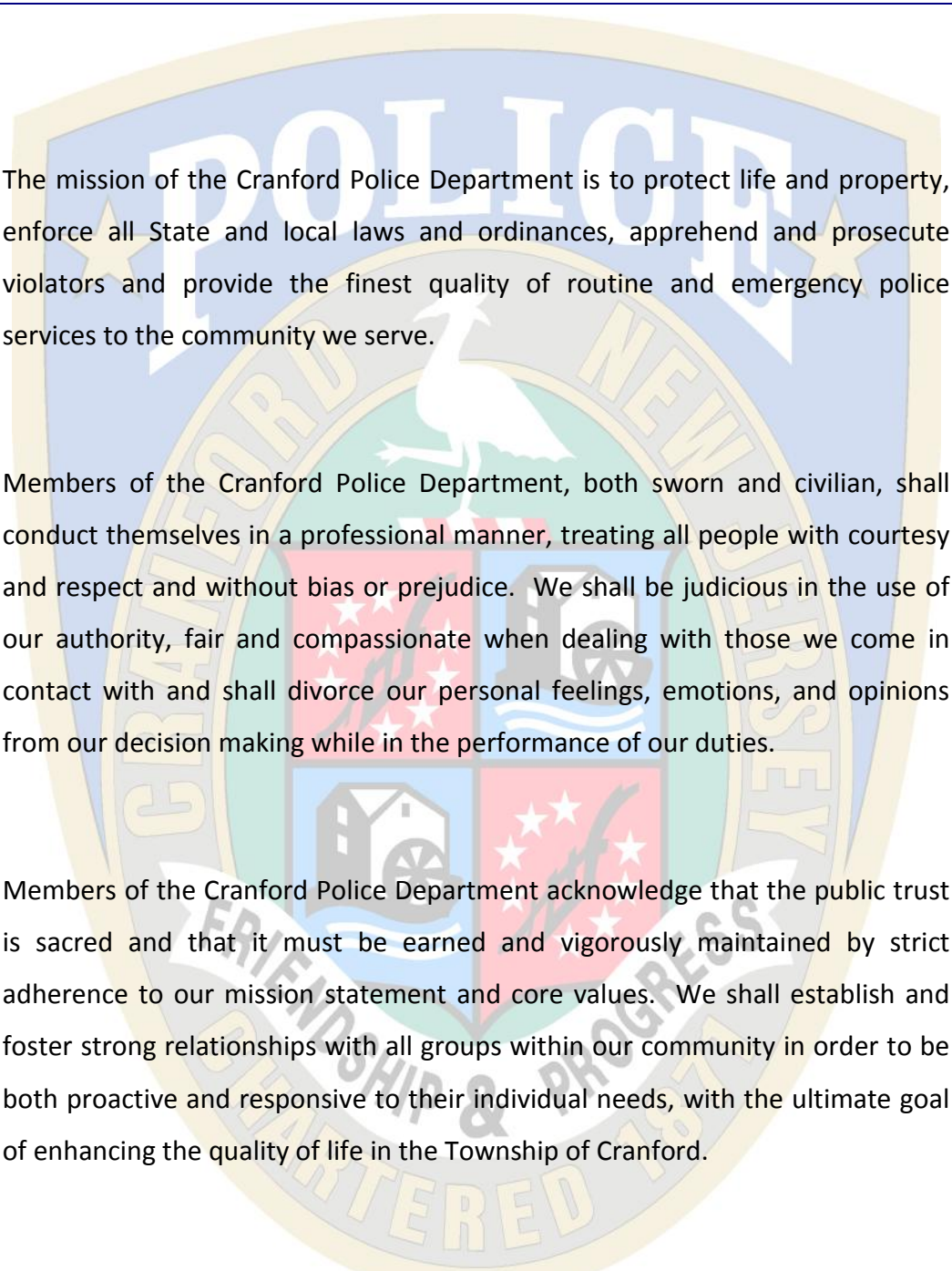
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# Mission Statement

## Cranford Police Department Mission Statement

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The seal of the Cranford Police Department is a shield-shaped emblem. At the top, the word "POLICE" is written in large, white, serif capital letters against a blue background. Below this, a white swan is depicted in profile, facing left. The shield is divided into four quadrants by a central cross. The top-left quadrant is red with a white star. The top-right quadrant is blue with a white star. The bottom-left quadrant is green with a white star. The bottom-right quadrant is red with a white star. The words "CRANFORD NEW JERSEY" are written in a circular border around the central elements. At the bottom of the shield, the words "FRIENDSHIP & PROGRESS" are written in a banner. The year "1874" is also visible at the bottom.

The mission of the Cranford Police Department is to protect life and property, enforce all State and local laws and ordinances, apprehend and prosecute violators and provide the finest quality of routine and emergency police services to the community we serve.

Members of the Cranford Police Department, both sworn and civilian, shall conduct themselves in a professional manner, treating all people with courtesy and respect and without bias or prejudice. We shall be judicious in the use of our authority, fair and compassionate when dealing with those we come in contact with and shall divorce our personal feelings, emotions, and opinions from our decision making while in the performance of our duties.

Members of the Cranford Police Department acknowledge that the public trust is sacred and that it must be earned and vigorously maintained by strict adherence to our mission statement and core values. We shall establish and foster strong relationships with all groups within our community in order to be both proactive and responsive to their individual needs, with the ultimate goal of enhancing the quality of life in the Township of Cranford.

# Chief's Letter

Letter from Chief Eric G. Mason

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## CRANFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

8 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE • CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY 07016-2199

(908) 272-2222 • FAX (908) 709-7341

VISIT US ON THE INTERNET • [www.cranford.com/police](http://www.cranford.com/police)

ERIC G. MASON  
CHIEF OF POLICE



It is my pleasure to submit the 2011 Annual Report for the Cranford Police Department. This report is a collection of the hard work and service provided by the men and women of the police department over the last year.

The Township of Cranford faced many challenges in 2011, but none worse than the effects of Hurricane Irene which struck on Sunday, August 28th. Despite suffering one of the worst floods in Cranford's history, including the loss of the first floor of the municipal building and the evacuation of the police department in the height of the storm, the members of the Cranford Police Department exhibited a strong conviction to ensure the residents were safe and secure. Many members of the department were directly affected at home by flooding, but still worked tirelessly to serve and protect our residents.

The cover for this annual report contains photographs of Captain John C. Baer who retired in October after 35 years of service to the Cranford Police Department. In 1987 Captain Baer was the recipient of the Cranford Police Department Medal of Honor for his heroic efforts at the scene of a home explosion. He was an extremely dedicated, loyal member of the department and we wish him well in his retirement.

I would like to thank the Cranford Township Committee for their continued support of the police department as we work together to provide dedicated service to the Cranford community.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric G. Mason".

Eric G. Mason  
Chief of Police

*To Protect and Serve*

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# In Dedication

In Dedication to those who have served as Cranford Police Officers

---

Ronald W. Abram  
Nicholas A. Amicucci  
Arthur E. Anderson  
Jerome M. Andrews  
Michael L. Andrews  
Charles H. Archdeacon  
Louis T. Atwood  
John C. Baer  
Thomas M. Bell  
Robert L. Bell  
John P. Benedetto  
Otto Behnert  
Thomas R. Benton  
Phillip H. Bindenberger  
Archie G. Bird  
William Blaney  
Harry A. Bohman  
Lawrence Bonnell, Sr.  
Lawrence T. Bonnell  
Thomas F. Bowne  
Vincent Brinkerhoff  
Alfred Broda  
Harry C. Brown  
Francesco L. Buonocore  
Albert Frank Burr  
William H. Burr  
Frank A. Caruso  
Leo M. Casper  
Michael W. Cavalla  
Christopher R. Chapman  
Bernard F. Clark  
David L. Cochrane  
Robert A. Colaneri  
Antonio Colineri  
John M. Colineri  
Edward J. Coleman  
Ronald Coles  
William A. Connell  
Wayne Cooper  
Raymond Cosmas  
Harry A. Craig  
William F. Crissey

William Crory  
Edward Csuka  
Donald A. Curry  
Myron Cymbaluk  
Paul R. Cymbaluk  
Samuel W. Cymbaluk  
Steven R. D'Ambola  
Raymond L. Davidson  
Edward R. Davenport  
Michael A. Deane  
Christopher M. DiFabio  
Anthony J. Dobbins  
Clifford W. Dobbins  
Michael E. Dow  
Bernard A. Doyle, Jr.  
Gregory J. Drexler  
Nicholas Druzek  
Michael P. Dubitsky  
Spencer J. Durkin  
Edwin F. Eldridge  
George Ennesser  
Larry Erickson  
Derek M. Farbanec  
Patrick J. Fay  
Michael Fedroff  
Thomas J. Feeney  
Albert R. Fischer  
**William A. Fischer**  
Steven Gachko  
John T. Gallagher  
Edward J. Galvin  
William G. Gassman  
Peter J. Graczyk  
Ryan J. Greco  
Jennifer Green  
George Greiss  
Alfred V. Grickowski  
William Griffin  
Louis L. Guertin  
**Robert A. Guertin**  
Lewis H. Halsey  
Brian S. Hand

Robert F. Hand  
Gerard F. Haney  
**Matthew T. Haney**  
Francis Hanley  
Richard C. Harrington  
Henry Harris, Jr.  
Nelson W. Hearn, Jr.  
John M. Heesters, III.  
**James E. Hennesey**  
William Hennesey  
John J. Herzer  
Thomas R. Herzer  
John M. Hicks  
Sean T. Holcomb  
Charles M. Hoeffler  
Roy Irving  
John H. Itzel  
**Williams Jennings**  
Paul S. Johnson  
Nadia N. Jones  
Robert A. Jones  
Robert R. Jordan, Jr.  
George W. Kane, Jr.  
Thomas E. Kane  
Alex King  
Louis M. Kleeman  
Rudolph Klempa  
Edward J. Klubenspies  
John P. Korsch  
Joseph R. Koury  
Ralph J. Koury  
Anton Kovacs  
John J. Kovacs  
(Unk.) Krise  
Paul Lampert  
Thomas Leavy  
Edward N. Lee  
Linn M. Lockwood, Jr.  
Brian M. Lopez  
John E. Lowrey  
Russell J. Luedecker  
James K. Manning

# In Dedication

## In Dedication to those who have served as Cranford Police Officers

---

Salvatore Manuri, Jr.  
Craig L. Marino  
Patrick J. Martin  
**Eric G. Mason**  
Milton T. Mason  
**Carlangelo Massa**  
Joseph McCaffrey  
James G. McFall  
John J. McNerney  
Robert R. Merrill  
Whitney C. Merrill  
W. E. Merwin  
Edward J. Metzner  
Arthur T. Miles, Jr.  
Leonard Miller  
Peter F. Miller  
Robert R. Moffett  
Robert A. Montague  
Stephen Motyczka  
Matthew R. Nazzaro  
John G. Neil  
Frank Neilson  
Daniel S. Norton  
Robert I. Nylen  
Timothy W. O'Brien  
John O'Donnell  
William O'Donnell  
Alfred J. Oram  
Gordon J. Ostrowsky  
Harry P. Page, Jr.  
William Parsons  
Guy E. Patterson  
Robert E. Peters  
William G. Peters  
Eugene J. Perrotta  
John J. Pienciak  
Robert E. Pierce  
William K. Pietrucha  
Henry Polidoro  
Christopher T. Polito  
George A. Porcella  
**Lester W. Powell**

John J. Puglisi  
Gerard P. Quinn  
John G. Ranhofer  
John J. Rattigan  
Herman Redrup  
Kelly A. Rieder  
Frederick G. Roberts  
George L. Rosendale  
Robert J. Ryan  
Leo J. Schaeffer  
Robert Schafer  
Edward A. Schindler  
Stephen D. Schlapak  
Richard H. Schofield  
Leo A. Schultz  
Robert M. Segear  
Andrew J. Sharo, Jr.  
Henry Simon  
James F. Sloan  
Kelly M. Sretenovic  
John H. Stanier, Jr.  
Thomas C. Stiansen  
Joseph W. Stulpin  
John J. Swandrak  
James P. Switek  
William D. Thermann  
Robert C. Thieme  
John M. Timons  
Brian D. Thomas

Lawrence T. Thomas  
Russell W. Thomas  
Carl Thompson  
Steven R. Toy  
Joseph P. Van Bergen, Jr.  
Vanessa Van Brunt  
Leonard R. Van Saders  
John F. Varley, Jr.  
Peter Vergalla  
F. Richard Vitale  
Brian J. Wagner  
George C. Ward  
James E. Washbourne  
Matthew J. Widdows  
**Harry W. Wilde**  
Russell S. Wilde  
Stephen D. Wilde  
Frank T. Williams  
David P. Winans  
Norman Woitkowski  
Thomas W. Woods, Sr.  
Thomas H. Woods, Jr.  
James Wozniak  
Edward T. Zarzecki  
William E. Zirkel  
Donald P. Zsak

**\*Names that appear in bold indicate Chiefs of Police**





# Police Administration

## Cranford Police Department Administration

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**Eric G. Mason**  
Chief of Police



**John C. Baer**  
Operations Captain



**Joseph P. Van Bergen**  
Administrative Captain

# Township Committee

## Cranford Township Committee & Administrator

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Cranford is governed by a five-member executive-legislative Township Committee which is elected at-large for three year terms. The commissioners elect a chairman of the committee who assumes the title of Mayor. Similarly, a Deputy Mayor is elected. Both positions carry one-year terms. Four of the commissioners take on departmental oversight assignments as Commissioners of Finance, Commissioner of Public Safety, Commissioner of Public Works and Engineering, and Commissioner of Public Affairs.



**Daniel J. Aschenbach**  
Mayor



**Kevin Campbell**  
Deputy Mayor  
Comm. of Public Safety



**David W. Robinson**  
Commissioner of  
Public Works



**Mark P. Dugan**  
Commissioner of  
Public Affairs



**Edward O'Malley**  
Commissioner of  
Finance

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The Township Administrator is appointed to implement the policies established by the Township Committee. The Administrator is also responsible for the overall management of the town's workforce and the development and oversight of the operating and capital budgets, personnel administration, public information, and the development and management of special projects.



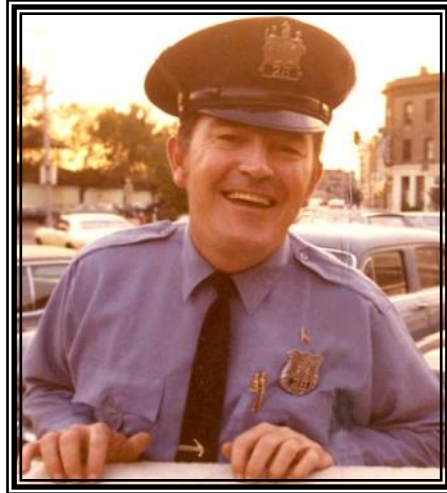
**Marlana A. Schmid**  
Township Administrator

# In Memoriam

In Memory of Patrolman Robert F. Hand

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## Patrolman Robert F. Hand



This year marked 36 years since the death of the only Cranford Police Officer to lose his life in the line of duty. Patrolman Robert F. Hand sacrificed his life protecting and serving the citizens of Cranford on February 11, 1975 following a motor vehicle pursuit.

The Cranford Police Department and the community at large have never forgotten Officer Hand's bravery. There are many memorial tributes to him, including a monument stone in front of police headquarters bearing Officer Hand's name and Badge #26. Also dedicated to his memory is a portrait of "The Senator," as he was affectionately known, which hangs in the lobby of the police desk. A photograph of Officer Hand along with his badge is displayed prominently in the police department hallway.

At the time of his death Patrolman Hand was 45 years old. More than 700 police officers and almost 140 police cars made a final tribute to Hand by participating in a procession from Dooley Funeral Home on North Avenue to St. Michael's Church on Alden Street where a funeral mass with full police honors was held. The procession, over a mile long, then went past police headquarters and proceeded to the burial at Graceland Memorial Park Cemetery in Kenilworth.

The Reverend Joseph Derbyshire, Cranford Police Chaplain and former assistant pastor at St. Michael's, was the celebrant of the mass. Monsignor John Davis, pastor of St. Michael's, gave the eulogy and Reverend John Oates assisted in the service. Police Chief Matthew Haney presented the flag from the casket to Patrolman Hand's 17 year old son, Brian. Hand's other children were Margaret, Timothy, and Mary.

The police pallbearers were Lieutenants Myron Cymbaluk and Henry Polidoro, Sergeants Gerard Haney and John Korsch, and Patrolmen John Herzer and Robert Nylan.

Fourteen members of the Cranford Police Auxiliary handled traffic control during the funeral and police officers from Garwood, Roselle Park, and Clark were on duty for calls in Cranford.

Patrolman Robert "Bobby" F. Hand was born in 1930 and was a native of Jersey City before moving to Cranford. He attended St. Benedict's High School and in 1947 joined the United States Air Force,

# In Memoriam

## In Memory of Patrolman Robert F. Hand

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attaining the rank of Corporal and serving in the Korean Conflict. He received an Honorable Discharge in 1950. Robert was appointed to the Cranford Police Department on July 1, 1956 and was assigned to the Patrol Division. Hand received a number of commendations during his career. In August 1968 he was commended for breaking up a narcotics ring where 10 people were arrested. Rahway Police commended him in March 1969 for his help in the arrest of a child molester and Army deserter.

During his time with the police department, Patrolman Hand was affectionately nicknamed “The Senator” by fellow officers because he couldn’t walk more than a few blocks without stopping to greet a dozen people. He always took the time to stop and say hello to people. Bobby always put others needs before his own and was notorious for his willingness to help those in need.

Robert was a member of the local Elk’s Club and of VFW Post No. 335. He was also a very active member of Policemen’s Benevolent Association, Local #52 and had been elected President the prior spring. He was instrumental in establishing the PBA collective bargaining unit which then resulted in the first labor contract between policemen and the township. After his death, the PBA established the Robert F. Hand Memorial Brotherhood Award which is given to the PBA member who best exemplifies the tradition of brotherhood that Officer Hand stood for. The first recipient of the honor was Lieutenant Myron Cymbaluk in 1980. In addition, the PBA announced the award of the first annual scholarship in Hand’s honor to Cranford residents looking to attend college in the fall.

This year, to honor his memory, members of the Cranford Police Department wore black mourning bands on their badges from Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the department designed and installed decals on all police vehicles honouring Patrolman Hand.



“Officer Hand gave his life in service to his community. The sacrifice that he and his family made will never be forgotten. On the anniversary of his death we should all pause for a moment in our day to pay him tribute,” said Cranford Police Chief Eric G. Mason.



# Bureaus & Divisions

## Cranford Police Department Bureaus and Divisions

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### Chief of Police

Eric G. Mason

### Captains

John C. Baer  
Joseph P. Van Bergen

### Patrol Division

Lt. Stephen D. Wilde  
Lt. Robert Colaneri  
Sgt. Anthony J. Dobbins  
Sgt. Thomas J. Feeney  
Sgt. Frank T. Williams  
Sgt. Guy E. Patterson  
Sgt. Eugene Perrotta  
Ptl. Peter J. Graczyk  
Ptl. John M. Heesters  
Ptl. Brian M. Lopez  
Ptl. Patrick J. Fay  
Ptl. William K. Pietrucha  
Ptl. Derek M. Farbanec  
Ptl. Brian D. Thomas  
Ptl. Thomas M. Bell  
Ptl. Timothy W. O'Brien  
Ptl. Joseph W. Stulpin  
Ptl. Nadia N. Jones  
Ptl. Nelson W. Hearn, Jr.  
Ptl. Sean T. Holcomb  
Ptl. Matthew R. Nazzaro  
Ptl. Brian J. Wagner  
Ptl. Steven R. D'Ambola  
Ptl. John M. Colineri  
Ptl. Daniel S. Norton  
Ptl. Spencer Durkin  
Ptl. Christopher DiFabio  
Ptl. Thomas C. Stiansen  
Ptl. John J. Rattigan  
Ptl. Kelly A. Rieder  
Ptl. Robert R. Jordan, Jr.  
Ptl. Kelly M. Sretenovic

### Lieutenants

Robert A. Colaneri  
Edward R. Davenport  
Stephen D. Wilde  
James Wozniak

### Executive Secretary

Joan F. Pinto

### Administrative Secretary

Theresa Snover

### Records Division

Det/Sgt. Craig L. Marino  
Clerk Jean H. McComb  
Clerk Suzanne M. Welsh

### Detective Bureau

Det/Lt. James Wozniak  
Det/Sgt. Gerard P. Quinn  
Det. Robert A. Montague  
Det. Ryan J. Greco

### Juvenile Bureau

Sgt. Christopher T. Polito  
Det. John J. Swandrak  
Det. Michael L. Andrews

### Traffic Division

D/Lt. Edward R. Davenport  
Det. Steven R. Toy  
Det. Russell Luedecker

### Traffic Maintenance

Charles E. Fette  
Joseph A. Corbisiero

### Sergeants

Anthony J. Dobbins  
Thomas J. Feeney  
Craig L. Marino  
Guy E. Patterson  
Eugene J. Perrotta  
Christopher T. Polito  
Gerard P. Quinn  
Richard Vitale  
Frank T. Williams

### Professional Standards

Det/Sgt. Richard Vitale

### Communications Officers

Kathleen A. Ditzel  
Stacy A. Thorn  
Rosemary T. Cartwright  
Anthony E. Matusawicz  
Leon T. Paster  
Michael P. Dubitsky  
Richard J. Villane  
Jaclyn A. Benkovich  
Ewa Jackson-Feldt  
Michael Urbanski  
Gregory Federici

# Personnel Changes

## Cranford Police Department 2011 Personnel Changes

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Daniel S. Norton	January 1, 2011	Officer 6th Grade
Russell J. Luedecker	February 1, 2011	Officer 6th Grade
Spencer J. Durkin	February 1, 2011	Officer 6th Grade
Christopher M. DiFabio	February 1, 2011	Officer 6th Grade
Joseph P. Van Bergen	February 8, 2011	Captain
Edward R. Davenport	February 8, 2011	Detective Lieutenant
Richard Vitale	February 8, 2011	Detective Sergeant
Eugene J. Perrotta	February 8, 2011	Sergeant
Officer Kelly Sretenovic	March 1, 2011	Resigned
Dispatcher Leon T. Paster	May 9, 2011	Resigned
Dispatcher Richard Villane	July 11, 2011	Resigned
Michael Urbanski	July 11, 2011	Communications Officer
Gregory Federici	July 11, 2011	Communications Officer
Thomas C. Stiansen	July 22, 2011	Officer 6th Grade
Captain John C. Baer	October 31, 2011	Retired
John J. Rattigan	December 31, 2011	Officer 6th Grade
Kelly A. Rieder	December 31, 2011	Officer 5th Grade
Robert R. Jordan	December 31, 2011	Officer 4th Grade
Michael P. Dubitsky	December 31, 2011	Academy



**Photo,** Michael Dubitsky with his parents after his swearing in ceremony on December 14, 2011. Michael will attend the John H. Stamler Police Academy in Scotch Plains from January to June.

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# Training

## Cranford Police Department Training

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The Cranford Police Department is dedicated to serving our community with a standard of excellence in the performance of our duties. To that end, Chief Eric G. Mason is committed to the concept of continued training to enhance the skills and broaden the knowledge of all personnel thereby enabling them to handle the wide array of situations they encounter with confident professionalism.

Our community is a dynamic, diverse and demanding environment necessitating recurrent training of our personnel to meet the challenges presented by changing laws and legal requirements, criminal tactics and trends, the rapid evolution of technology and the public's expectation of exceptional police assistance and services.

Cranford Police Officers receive their mandatory initial training and certification at the John H. Stamler Police Academy in Scotch Plains, New Jersey. Upon graduation, the new officer enters our Field Training Program wherein they are teamed with a more seasoned formally trained Field Training Officer (FTO). During the next 14 weeks, the FTO functions as a mentor guiding the new officer through the practical application of policy, procedure and tactics accomplishing specific training tasks within the framework of response to actual calls and performance of duties in the community.

The New Jersey Attorney General mandates all New Jersey law enforcement officers receive semi-annual training in firearms, use of force and vehicular pursuit.

Moreover, throughout their careers, all personnel attend further training updates, programs, seminars and in-house presentations in a broad spectrum of disciplines to ensure our individual and collective competency is of the highest caliber in the service of our citizens.

In 2011 members of the Cranford Police Department completed training as follows:

**Michael Andrews**

Alcotest Operator Recertification  
DV Police Response Enhancement  
Juvenile Risk Screening Tool  
Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness  
Sovereign Citizens

Crisis Intervention Training  
DV for Police Executive Officers  
DV for Municipal Law Enforcement  
Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness  
Surviving Critical Incidents  
Sovereign Citizens

**John Baer**

Domestic Violence Training  
Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness

**John Colineri**

DV Police Response Enhancement  
Firearms Instructor  
Methods of Instruction  
Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness  
Sovereign Citizens

**Thomas Bell**

Alcotest Operator Recertification  
Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness  
Sovereign Citizens

**Joseph Corbisiero**

Work Zone Safety  
New Jersey Transit Contractor Safety  
NEMA TS1 Controller Assembly Troubleshooting

**Robert Colaneri**

Alcotest Operator Recertification

# Training

## Cranford Police Department Training

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### **Steven D'Ambola**

Advanced Roadside DWI Enforcement  
DV Police Response Enhancement  
Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness  
Sovereign Citizens

### **Edward Davenport**

Archonix Administrator Training  
Archonix Train the Trainer  
SAGE System Training  
7th Annual NJ Safety Forum  
ASLAN 1.06 Back Office Training  
Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness  
NJ Parent/Teen Driver Orientation Training  
Sovereign Citizens

### **Christopher DiFabio**

Advanced Interview and Interrogation  
Sovereign Citizens

### **Anthony Dobbins**

Alcotest Operator Recertification  
Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness  
NJSACOP Command and Leadership  
Sovereign Citizens

### **Spencer Durkin**

Alcotest Operator Certification  
DWI Standardized Field Sobriety Test Refresher  
Sovereign Citizens

### **Derek Farbanec**

Alcotest Operator Recertification  
DWI Standardized Field Sobriety Testing  
Sovereign Citizens

### **Patrick Fay**

Sovereign Citizens

### **Gregory Federici**

CPR Certification  
9-1-1 BTC  
9-1-1 Emergency Medical Dispatch  
Use of Force  
Cell Block Management

### **Thomas Feeney**

Alcotest Operator Recertification  
DV Police Response Enhancement  
Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness  
Sovereign Citizens

### **Charles Fette**

New Jersey Transit Contractor Safety  
NEMA TS1 Controller Assembly Troubleshooting  
Solving Diagnostic Trouble Codes  
Work Zone Safety

### **Peter Graczyk**

Alcotest Operator Recertification  
Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness  
Sovereign Citizens

### **Ryan Greco**

Alcotest Operator Recertification  
Anatomy of a Search Warrant  
DV Police Response Enhancement  
Homicide Task Force Training  
Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness  
Project Safe Neighborhood Anti-Gang Conference  
Sovereign Citizens

### **Ralph Gregson**

Use of Force  
Children Witnessing Domestic Violence  
Cell Block Management  
Steroids in Law Enforcement

### **Nelson Hearn**

Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness  
Sovereign Citizens

### **John Heesters**

Sovereign Citizens

### **Sean Holcomb**

Sovereign Citizens

### **Ewa Jackson**

Use of Force  
Cell Block Management



# Training

## Cranford Police Department Training

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### **Nadia Jones**

Sovereign Citizens

### **Robert Jordan**

Sovereign Citizens

### **Brian Lopez**

DV Police Response Enhancement  
Sovereign Citizens

### **Russell Luedecker**

Archonix Train the Trainer  
Vehicle Dynamics  
7th Annual NJ Safety Forum  
HazMat Operations Refresher  
NJ MVC Identity Crime Seminar  
ASLAN 1.06 Back Office Training  
Sovereign Citizens

### **Craig Marino**

Archonix Administrator Training  
Archonix Train the Trainer  
Alcotest Operator Recertification  
Terminal Agency Coordinator TAC Seminar  
DV Police Response Enhancement  
Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness  
NJPSAC Excellence in Policing Accreditation  
OPRA for Law Enforcement Agencies  
Records Management for Law Enforcement  
UCR Update Seminar  
Sovereign Citizens

### **Eric Mason**

NJ College & University/Local PD Summit  
Sovereign Citizens

### **Anthony Matusawicz**

Use of Force  
Children Witnessing DV  
Cell Block Management  
Steroids in Law Enforcement

### **Robert Montague**

Alcotest Operator Recertification  
Ballistic Shield Train the Trainer  
DV Police Response Enhancement  
Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention  
Sovereign Citizens  
State & Local Anti-Terrorism  
Surviving Critical Incidents

### **Matthew Nazzaro**

Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness  
Sovereign Citizens

### **Daniel Norton**

Sovereign Citizens

### **Timothy O'Brien**

DWI Standardized Field Sobriety Test Refresher  
Sovereign Citizens

### **Guy Patterson**

Alcotest Operator Recertification  
DV Police Response Enhancement  
ASLAN 1.06 Back Office Training  
Sovereign Citizens

### **Eugene Perrotta**

DWI Detection & Standardized Field Testing  
High Impact Supervision  
Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness  
Excited Delirium  
Mental Health Training  
Sovereign Citizens

### **William Pietrucha**

Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness  
Sovereign Citizens

# Training

## Cranford Police Department Training

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### **Christopher Polito**

Alcotest Operator Recertification  
DV Police Response Enhancement  
Juvenile Risk Screening Tool  
Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness  
NJ Juvenile Officer's Assoc. Conference  
NJ MVC Operation Facial Scrub  
Sovereign Citizens

### **Gerard Quinn**

Archonix Administrator Training  
Archonix Train the Trainer  
Alcotest Operator Recertification  
Crisis Intervention Team  
Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness  
NJ MVC Identity Crime Seminar  
NJPSAC Excellence in Policing Accreditation  
Sovereign Citizens  
UCR Update Seminar

### **John Rattigan**

Firearms Instructor  
CPR Instructor Certification  
Crisis Negotiation for First Responders  
Sovereign Citizens

### **Kelly Rieder**

DV Police Response Enhancement  
Sovereign Citizens

### **Thomas Stiansen**

Sovereign Citizens

### **Joseph Stulpin**

DV Police Response Enhancement  
Excited Delirium Training  
Mental Health Training  
Sovereign Citizens

### **John Swandrak**

Alcotest Operator Recertification  
Arrest, Search, and Seizure  
DV Police Response Enhancement  
Firearms Instructor Development Course  
Identifying Warning Signs of School Violence  
Juvenile Risk Screening Tool  
Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness  
Sovereign Citizens  
Recent Case Law Update

### **Steven Toy**

Alcotest Operator Recertification  
Basic Engineering for Police Traffic Officers  
Human Factors in Traffic Crash Reconstruction  
ASLAN 1.06 Back Office Training  
Interview and Interrogation  
Sovereign Citizens  
Traffic Crash Reconstruction  
VIN Cloning and MV Title Fraud

### **Michael Urbanski**

9-1-1 BTC  
9-1-1 Emergency Medical Dispatch  
Community Safety Consultants  
Use of Force  
Children Witnessing Domestic Violence  
Cell Block Management  
Steroids in Law Enforcement

### **Joseph Van Bergen**

Archonix Administrator Training  
Archonix Train the Trainer  
SAGE System Training  
Steroids and Law Enforcement  
Analyst Leadership Course  
ASLAN 1.06 Back Office Training  
Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness  
Management's Rights  
Sovereign Citizens  
OPRA for Law Enforcement Agencies

# Training

## Cranford Police Department Training

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### **Richard Vitale**

Archonix Train the Trainer  
Alcotest Operator Recertification  
ABC Enforcement Techniques for Police  
ABC Enforcement Techniques—Advanced  
Firearms Instructor Development Course  
Fundamentals & Advanced DV Investigations  
Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness  
The Bulletproof Mind  
Sovereign Citizens

### **Brian Wagner**

Alcotest Operator Recertification  
Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Course  
Sovereign Citizens

### **Stephen Wilde**

Alcotest Operator Recertification  
Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness  
DV Police Response Enhancement  
FBI National Academy  
Sovereign Citizens

### **Frank Williams**

Alcotest Operator Recertification  
Sovereign Citizens

### **James Wozniak**

Alcotest Operator Recertification  
Law Enforcement Suicide Awareness  
FBI Mid-Atlantic LEADS  
NJ MVC Operation Facial Scrub  
Public Information Officer  
Sovereign Citizens  
NJ College & University/Local PD Summit  
Special Events Contingency Planning

**Photo below,** New Jersey State Police medical helicopter landing at the John H. Stamler Police Academy in Scotch Plains for the 2011 Cranford Police Department Youth Academy training.



# Firearms Unit

## Cranford Police Department Firearms Unit

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In late 2010, the Cranford Police Department applied for and was awarded a Department of Homeland Security school safety grant that provided a ballistic shield for active shooter situations. The purpose of the grant was to give increased ballistic protection for officers entering a school to suppress an active shooter. The M.U.S.T. (Multi Use Shield Technology) by First Choice Armor is a state of the art level III-A ballistic shield that offers more protection by reducing exposure of head and arms while standing, kneeling or in prone position. It is designed to stop most handgun caliber rounds as well as some larger caliber rifle rounds.

In June 2011, the Cranford Police Department was issued two shields. During the semi-annual qualifications, each officer was trained in the deployment of the shield and participated in live fire drills.



**Above,** Patrolman Joseph Stulpin is shown during training with the new M.U.S.T. ballistic shield. **Below,** M.U.S.T. Shield.





# Communications Division

## Cranford Police Department Communications Division

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The Communications Division works very closely with the Patrol Division. Due to this interaction, Communications was realigned under Operations in 2011 and falls under the direct supervision of Operations Captain John Baer.

Lieutenant Stephen Wilde was assigned to A & B squads and Lieutenant Robert Colaneri was assigned to C & D squads. The lieutenants generally work from noon until midnight to cover a majority of both the day and night shifts. Duties included but were not limited to overseeing day-to-day operations related to Communications.

Eight full time civilian Communications Officers comprise the workforce. The schedule for these Communications Officers is as follows: two day shift officers and two night shift officers per day. Both the Communications and Patrol Divisions adhere to the four-day on, four day off work schedule.

Michael Urbanski and Gregory Federici were hired in July due to the resignations of Communications Officers Leon Paster and Richard Villane.

Each employee who works in the Communication Center is required to have at least 8 hours per year of continuing education as it relates to 9-1-1 and Emergency Medical Dispatch. Chief Mason assigned Sergeant Anthony Dobbins to become a certified State of New Jersey instructor in both of these courses. This allows all personnel to be trained in house over the course of the year.

The physical layout of the Communication Division provides four separate workstations

allowing an environment more conducive to productive work. Three of these stations are for use by the Communications Officers and are a Public Safety Answering Point for receiving 9-1-1 calls. All radios and paging systems work off of personal computers, which are linked to the Police Department's network. The fourth workstation enables the Supervisor to closely monitor each of the three Communications Officers. The digital and portable radio systems provide encrypted transmissions, emergency alarms on every radio, and individual radio identification.

The calls for service for 2011 were **55,322**.



**Photos Above,** Officer Kelly Rieder and Communications Officer Greg Federici work in the Union County OEM Command Post during Hurricane Irene.

# Detective Bureau

## Cranford Police Department Investigative Division

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On January 1, 2011, Lieutenant James Wozniak became the Investigative Division Commander of the Detective Bureau. Under his command were Sgt. Gerard Quinn assigned as the nightshift supervisor of the Detective Bureau and Sgt. Christopher Polito assigned as the supervisor of the Juvenile Bureau. The investigative staff consists of Detective Robert Montague and Detective Ryan Greco, for the Detective Bureau, and Detective John Swandrak and Detective Michael Andrews for the Juvenile Bureau.

The Detective Bureau operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year and is responsible for conducting follow-up criminal investigations for a wide assortment of offenses, including but not limited to, narcotic violations, burglaries, thefts, robberies, sexual assaults, missing persons, child abuse, homicide, financial and identity thefts and other in depth or long term investigations. Detectives work in cooperation with other divisions of the Cranford Police Department, as well as other municipal, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Each detective is responsible to cover “on call” hours during weekends, overnight and holidays. This is done on a rotating basis to assure that no emergency occurs without the enhancement of their specialized training.

Each member receives specialized training consisting of crime scene processing, evidence gathering, interview and interrogation techniques, crime scene photography, gang interdiction, surveillance techniques and intelligence gathering, to name a few. Advances in computer technology have created a new realm of criminal activity for modern day law

enforcement to deal with. White collar crime is now synonymous with the full range of frauds which are, typically, financially motivated and increasingly performed surreptitiously on the world-wide-web. Continuous training in these technological advancements is imperative and provides law enforcement the tools needed to investigate crimes and capture criminals.

The Cranford Police Department Investigative Division continuously participates in community based programs. In cooperation with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) New Jersey (NJ) Division “Operation Take Back NJ” is a program designed to provide a safe and legal method for the citizens of New Jersey to dispose their unwanted, unused, and expired medicines. The Cranford Police Department, under the direction of Sgt. Gerard Quinn, once again participated in this very successful program. In fact, this program was so successful in 2010, collecting over 14,000 pounds of medicines, that it was expanded to occur biennially in 2010 both in April and October. Through the efforts of this program, the Cranford Police collected over 150 pounds of prescription medication.

“National Night Out” has easily become the most popular program the Cranford Police Department is involved with. This program, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for local anti crime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community relations and send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. Detective Robert

# Detective Bureau

## Cranford Police Department Investigative Division

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Montague has been the event organizer since 2005 and its success has grown in popularity with citizens and police officers alike. On display at the event were vehicles and equipment used regularly by the Police Department including police cars, the police motorcycle, our zodiac boats and our emergency command unit. Citizens were entertained by a live DJ, face painting, a magician, and a demonstration presented by the Tae Kwon Do Center of New Jersey. The event was attended by over 500 residents and was a testament to its popularity and success.

The Cranford Police Investigative Division shall continue to establish and foster strong relationships with all groups within our community in order to be both proactive and responsive to their individual needs, with the ultimate goal of enhancing the quality of life in the Township of Cranford.

**Photo,** Detective Robert Montague explains the command structure of the Investigative Division to the cadets of this years Youth Academy.



# Detective Bureau

## Cranford Police Department Investigative Division

2011 CLASS I OFFENSES BY MONTH													
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Homicide	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Assault	5	5	5	7	9	3	6	8	6	5	5	8	72
Burglary	2	4	5	1	3	7	1	3	3	3	5	6	43
Theft	15	6	10	16	13	29	17	10	21	13	11	32	193
MV Theft	0	1	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	3	1	1	12
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>322</b>

CLASS I OFFENSES		
	2010	2011
Homicide	0	1
Rape	0	0
Robbery	5	1
Assault	71	72
Burglary	51	43
Theft	194	193
MV Theft	8	12
Arson	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>322</b>

ARRESTS		
	2010	2011
Adult	412	358
Juvenile	63	83
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>441</b>

AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS ON POLICE	
2010	2011
3	3

CLASS II OFFENSES		
	2010	2011
Fraud	83	134
Stolen Property	5	3
Criminal Mischief	243	312
Weapons Offenses	8	6
Sex Offenses (not Rape)	3	4
Narcotics Investigations	153	131
Family Offenses	142	82
DWI	68	85
Liquor Offenses	5	58
Disorderly Conduct	552	654
Missing Persons	49	26
All Other Offenses	1503	479
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2814</b>	<b>1974</b>

CASES ASSIGNED TO DETECTIVES	
2010	2011
2814	1974



# Juvenile Bureau

## Cranford Police Department Investigative Division

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The Juvenile Bureau offers an informal atmosphere conducive to creating a positive interaction between juveniles, parents, and the Cranford Police Department. Parents are critical in fostering positive moral and social character development. Parents need to ask questions, make suggestions, console, comfort, support, encourage, discuss, teach, befriend, communicate, trust and respect their children. A parent who is actively involved their child's life does make a difference. In 2011 the Cranford Police Department Juvenile Bureau consisted of Detective Sergeant Christopher Polito, Detective John Swandrak, and Detective Michael Andrews. In May of 2011 the Juvenile Bureau moved from Cleveland Plaza back to Cranford Police Headquarters.

*The responsibilities and functions relating to juvenile delinquency, deterrence, and enforcement are exercised through the Family Court, Union County Prosecutor's Office and departmental policies. The goals of the Juvenile Justice System are:*

- *To ensure that public safety is protected.*
- *To rehabilitate the juvenile so that he or she can grow into a resourceful and productive person who will contribute positively to society.*
- *To hold the juvenile accountable for his or her acts.*

All cases assigned to the Juvenile Bureau are handled by a follow-up investigation, which may result in the signing of juvenile complaints. Juveniles are taken into custody to protect the health, morals and well being of the juvenile. Juveniles are not arrested. All investigations and complaints are

handled individually and impartially. Many times, formal involvement in the juvenile justice system is unwarranted and may even be counterproductive. Juvenile officers attempt to resolve minor incidents without the need to file a complaint with the court. In these cases, the victim is given the opportunity to have input as to the final resolution of the matter. The officers, in agreement with the victim, juvenile offender, and their families, fashion the juvenile's consequences specifically to the needs of the involved parties. In these instances, the matter is resolved swiftly and to the satisfaction of the victim, the police, and the juvenile and their family.

The purpose of diverting juvenile offenders from appearing before the Family Court in Elizabeth is to seek the help specifically designed to educate and rehabilitate the individual. During the past year, juvenile offenders have been referred to the Fire Setter Program of the Cranford Fire Department, the Trinitas Mental Hygiene Unit, the Carrier Clinic, the High Focus Center, and the S.E.R.V. Center. The Juvenile Bureau has an excellent working relationship with school officials.

The Union County Youth Service Bureau - Crisis Intervention Unit serves as a mediation mechanism designed to preserve the unity of the family, whenever possible, and to secure for each child the appropriate care, guidance and control in the best interest of the child's welfare. Last year, 12 referrals were made to the Division of Youth and Family services. The Union County Youth Service Bureau has added several programs that have helped the Juvenile Bureau with Stationhouse Adjustments.

# Juvenile Bureau

## Cranford Police Department Investigative Division

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These programs include Community Service, a Shoplifting Seminar, and its newest program, Anti-Bullying. These programs help the Juvenile Bureau make juvenile accountable for their actions when they break the law as a first time offender. Alcohol and drug cases can't be handled as Stationhouse Adjustments.

The Juvenile Conference Committee continued to play an active, integral part in the adjudication of juvenile delinquents. The members of the J.C.C. are volunteers from Cranford who are trained by court staff and appointed by the Presiding Judge of the Family Court to informally hear juvenile complaints that are referred by the court. The J.C.C. is primarily concerned with preventing future misconduct of young people. All matters coming before the Committee are strictly confidential. The JCC usually handles all first time alcohol offenses and are now handling first time CDS cases involving under 50g of marijuana.

The Juvenile Bureau staff members, Det./Sgt. Chris Polito, Det. John Swandrak, and Det. Michael Andrews, have participated in and served on committees for the following organizations: Cranford Municipal Alliance, Cranford Police Athletic League, Union County Juvenile Officers Association, , and the New Jersey Juvenile Officers Association. They have been involved in activities in many school activities such as Project Graduation, The Prom, Cranford High School Graduation, Cranford High School Criminal Justice Classes, Prom Safety lecture and

various other school lectures and programs in the Cranford School System.

D/Sgt. Polito teaches the law enforcement block of instruction on Juvenile Law, Policy and Procedures to the Police Recruits, and the Juvenile Update to law enforcement officers at the Union County Police Academy. Detective Montague and Officer D'Ambola conducted the fifth session of the Youth Academy in 2011.

**Top photo,** Youth Academy cadets doing their morning exercise. **Bottom photo,** cadets learning about the NJ State Police medical helicopter program.



# D.A.R.E. Program

## Drug Abuse Resistance Education

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The D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program is sponsored by the Cranford Municipal Alliance. More than 5,000 students have graduated from the DARE program since it was first introduced into the Cranford school system in 1991. Detective Sergeant Richard Vitale taught the DARE program to over three hundred Cranford 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Brookside, Hillside, Livingston and Orange Avenue schools as well as Saint Michael's school, in 2011.

DARE is a collaborative effort by certified law enforcement officers, educators, students, parents and the community to offer an educational program in the classroom to prevent drug abuse and violence among juveniles. All fifth graders receive a structured, 10-week program presented by a certified DARE officer. The DARE program offers preventative strategies to enhance the protective factors such as family, school and community bonds which foster the development of resiliency in young people who may be at risk for substance abuse and the related dangers.

The program emphasizes the knowledge and

skills necessary to aid students in recognizing and resisting the direct and subtle pressures that influence them to experiment with alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and any other drug. Students learn that any drug has the potential for abuse and unintentional addiction.

DARE offers a variety of interactive, group participation, cooperative-learning activities designed to encourage students to find creative, problem solving methods. The children are not only taught to say "No" but also how to say "No". This is accomplished by:

- Providing students with accurate information about drugs and the consequences of their decisions.
- Teaching students about the forms of peer pressure.
- Teaching students decision-making skills through the analysis of realistic scenarios to develop practical avoidance strategies.
- Demonstrating how to utilize their knowledge and skills to resist drugs and violence.

Students write a multi-page essay detailing the knowledge and skills they have learned in DARE. The fifth grade program culminates in a DARE graduation ceremony at each school. Several students are selected to read their DARE essay to the audience. All students receive a graduation certificate and a t-shirt.

# P.A.L. Program

## Cranford Police Athletic League

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The Cranford PAL completed its 30<sup>th</sup> year of serving the youth of Cranford in 2011. The PAL continued to provide many positive activities for the youth, including football, cheerleading, flag football, boys and girls basketball, wrestling, volleyball and track. The PAL also continued to support the Union County Flag Rugby Program. The strength of the PAL is the dedication and support of the volunteers who give selflessly to the children, working to make a difference in their lives. We feel athletic participation instills certain desirable educational, social and personal values. This is just a few of the reasons the volunteers, parents, coaches and Cranford police officers involved with the PAL provide considerable financial, and administrative support to the program.

The PAL is operated under the direction of Executive Director, Det./Sgt. Chris Polito and the 16 members of the Board of Directors. Members of the PAL Board of Directors are: Honorary Chairman, Chief Eric Mason, Lt. Bob Colaneri, Lt. Jim Wozniak, Sgt. Frank Williams, Off. Matt Nazzaro (Secretary), Off. Steve D'Ambola (Treasurer), Gregg Wheatley (President), Kim Capece (Vice President), Marc Taglieri, John Oblachinski, Bob Bruns, Brian McGovern, Michael Plick, Andrea DaSilva, and Dan Fay. These volunteers spend a tremendous amount of time making decisions and organizing programs that make the PAL a successful non-profit organization.

The PAL has six (6) football teams for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade athletes. Brian McGovern, program director, and Erik Rosenmeier, head football coach at Cranford High School, hosted several clinics and meetings between the PAL coaching staff and the varsity coaching staff. The staffs exchanged information regarding offensive, defensive, and special team strategies. The extra time put in by all the coaches was rewarded by another successful season. The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (A-Team) finished with an undefeated 8-0 regular season record before being ousted in the

second round of the playoffs. The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Team (B-Team) got within one game of the Superbowl by losing a heartbreaker. The Cheerleading program had six (6) squads this year. The participants are girls in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The cheerleaders, under the guidance of program director, Christine Alger and their coaches, invested many hours of practice during the season. The cheerleading squads provided both vocal and emotional support for the football teams throughout the year. The enthusiastic performance given every Sunday was evidence of their hard work and devotion to their sport.



The PAL basketball program consisted of ten (10) teams participating in different leagues throughout the state. The boys program consists of seven (6) teams, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade team, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teams, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade team, 7<sup>th</sup> grade team and two 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams. The program has four (4) girls basketball teams for 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. John Frieri, program director, provided valuable technical and strategic information to the coaching staff. He was invaluable in coordinating gym facility use for games and practices for all the basketball teams as well as arranging the tryouts and schedules for each team.

The wrestling program continued to grow in number of participants and in success on the mat. The program has over 100 wrestlers participating for the 2011/2012 season. The



# P.A.L. Program

## Cranford Police Athletic League

Program Director, Kevin Murray, led the program, participating in the Central Jersey Wrestling League and the Passaic County Wrestling League as well as the Middle School Wrestling Program.

The track program was held at Memorial Field. The program is under the direction of Tim Styler from the Westfield Running Company. There were over 60 participants in the program. The flag football program, directed by Jim Kwiatowski, completed its eleventh year. There were over 80 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade athletes involved in the program. The flag football program continues to fuel the football program, year to year.

The flag rugby program is co-sponsored by the PAL and the Union County Rugby Football Club. The season runs from June through July with games on Saturdays at Unami Park.

The PAL again sponsored teams in the Cranford Baseball/Softball League, as well as supporting the Booster Club, Hillside Ave. School PTA, Project Graduation, CHS Student lock-in, The St. Michael's Feast and The CAT Fund.

The P.A.L. also continued to support the Scholarship Fund it created in 2007. The fund was created in memory of Retired UCPO Lt. and long time Cranford resident/ PAL Board Member Lt. Glenn Owens. The Glenn Owens Scholarship is awarded to a Cranford High School student, that participated in a PAL program. The amount of the scholarship is \$500 for each award. The 2011 scholarships were awarded to Sean Wheatley and Brianna Capece.



Top two photos show PAL 7th Grade B Team Playoffs. Bottom two photos show PAL 8th Grade A Team.

# Internet Web Site

[http:// www.cranford.com/police](http://www.cranford.com/police)

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In 1997, recognizing the larger role that technology and computers would play in the future, the Cranford Police Department became one of the first police departments in Union County to establish a permanent presence on the Internet's World Wide Web. The creation and maintenance of the police website ([www.cranford.com/police](http://www.cranford.com/police)) was designed to give the public more access to departmental information, and to present a means for people, both local and non-local, to communicate non-emergency concerns. Today, and even more so in the near future, the public we serve is making use of Internet technologies; the Cranford Police Department is adapting to meet the challenges of this new medium.

The department home page provides the following information and services...

- It lists the department's address, telephone numbers, and email address ([police@cranfordnj.org](mailto:police@cranfordnj.org)).
- It shows pictures of department members, activities and equipment.
- It contains information and application instructions for the Police Auxiliary and Police Explorers Post.
- It presents special announcements, community updates, drunk driving enforcement news, and other current information on a "bulletin board" page.
- It allows the viewing, downloading and printing of common forms, applications, and ordinances online.
- It presents traffic safety tips and program information, including bicycle/pedestrian safety, child seat information, safe driving campaigns, and links to the municipal court traffic ticket payment system.
- It provides crime prevention tips and advice for workers, seniors, homeowners and children.

- It lists Police Athletic League, DARE, and juvenile justice information.
- It presents a number of links to related police, local, and governmental websites.

In the past fourteen years (since 1998) the Department's Internet home page has logged over 192,000 visits to the site. In 2011, the Cranford Police home page averaged over 2,400 visits per month, totaling 29,192 visits from over 16,000 unique visitors. In addition, over 1,300 visitors in 2011 took advantage of the Department's online form downloads.

Email has been received from numerous local residents as well as foreign citizens and law enforcement agencies. Local residents have reported everything from fraud cases to chronic barking dog issues; they have requested information for school reports and have arranged home and business security inspections. Foreign visitors (page hits were received from 95 distinct countries) have exchanged training and scheduling information, have requested patches or memorabilia, or have just stopped by to say "hi." Retired officers have checked in from as far away as Arizona and Florida.

Design and maintenance of the Cranford Police website, as well as responding to and recording email correspondence, is the responsibility of Detective Sergeant Gerard Quinn (in cooperation with the web design team at [Cranford.com](http://Cranford.com)). Detective Lieutenant Edward Davenport and Captain Joseph Van Bergen assist with the email correspondence and the management of the site, particularly traffic and news bulletin related information. Each of the Department's division and bureau heads has provided information and regularly contributes to the overall makeup of the site. Through its Internet presence, the department intends to continue its progressive tradition and meet the technological challenges of the new millennium.

# Patrol Division

## Cranford Police Department Patrol Division

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The Patrol Division is the backbone of the Cranford Police Department. It is manned by more officers than any other division within the department. The Division's preventive and proactive patrol efforts contribute toward safe streets and neighborhoods allowing the residents of Cranford to enjoy walking and cycling in complete confidence. Personal safety and property security are a paramount importance in guiding our efforts to preserve public tranquility.

The Patrol Division is under the command of Captain John Baer. He is assisted by Lieutenants Robert Colaneri and Stephen Wilde, who each command a platoon. They are assisted by Anthony Dobbins, Thomas Feeney, Guy Patterson, and Frank Williams who are in charge of the four division squads. Eugene Perrotta was assigned to the Patrol Division as well in 2011 for training after his promotion in February.

There were a total of **55,322** incidents reported to the Cranford Police Department during 2011. These total incidents are broken down as follows:

**9,097** calls for criminal related activity, including:

- 1,664 calls reporting burglary/trespass/alarm
- 2,551 calls reporting disorderly conduct
- 398 calls reporting thefts/stolen property
- 329 calls reporting vandalism/malicious damage
- 420 calls reporting warrant arrests

**18,871** calls for traffic related activity, including:

- 895 calls reporting motor vehicle accidents
- 5,383 calls reporting selective enforcement assignments
- 8,831 calls reporting motor vehicle violation investigations resulting in warnings/ summonses

**22,358** calls requesting public service, including:

- 2,137 medical assistance requests
- 15,217 building examinations and public transportation inspections
- 291 requests for assistance with vehicle/house lock-outs

**4,996** administrative assignments, including:

- 282 Police Auxiliary/Explorer details
- 977 In-Service/L.E.T.N. training



**Above,** the portion of Springfield Avenue fronting police headquarters was closed during Hurricane Irene to allow for police operations and recovery efforts.

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# Auxiliary Police

## Cranford Police Department Auxiliary Police

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The history of the Cranford Auxiliary Police dates back to 1917 shortly after the United States declared war with Germany. During this time, reports of domestic sabotage were rampant and the need for additional protection from within our own borders became common place. Memorialized in the *Cranford Citizen* were references made of the **Home Guard**. This organization of strictly men would be “detailed to patrol duty under the tutelage of regular patrol officers”. The Home Guard consisted of 16 men; citizens of Cranford whom were trained weekly on Thursday nights. Although the scope of the training was not specific, archived information noted that Robert Crane held the rank of Captain within the organization.

After World War I, there is no documented history of the Home Guard until 1941, when the United States declared war on Japan after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Evidence of German U-boats spying on the United States off the coast of New Jersey was revealed and with the establishment of the Local Defense Council, “dim outs” and “air raid drills” were instituted. Cities and towns established its own emergency policies in accordance with the national and state guidelines. The March 19, 1941 *Cranford Citizen and Chronicle* reported the formalization of the **Civil Defense Emergency Police** under the direction of Chief Lester Powell. This unit consisted of 96 members and required a three month intensive training program. Once the training was complete, the men were presented with police shields, arm bands, whistles and steel helmets. They were responsible for ensuring that all lights were extinguished during air raid drills.

The post World War II era promulgated the nuclear age with the Cuban missile crisis, Vietnam crisis and the stockpiling of atomic weapons by Russia, thus, compelling the **Civil Emergency Police** to continue to function as a branch of the police. Upon receipt of the sounding of the Red Air Raid warning, members would respond to their predetermined “Shelter Area” or “First Aid Station” and provide the required services for that station.

Eventually, as the threats of the world suppressed, activities for the **Cranford Police Reserves** were reduced to traffic duty at local events Election Day polling duty, natural disaster emergency response, child searches, oil spills and other duties wherever extra assistance was needed.

In 2010 the Cranford Auxiliary Police is a service organization composed entirely of volunteer members and operates under the division of the Cranford Office of Emergency Management. All members are required to be at least 18 years of age, possess a high school diploma or GED and complete a Basic Auxiliary Police Course prior to performing active duty with the Auxiliary. This training is provided at the John H. Stamler Police Academy annually. Their duties are designed to augment those of sworn police personnel and include directed foot and vehicle patrols, traffic control, enforcement of laws and regulations, apprehension of violators, detaining of suspicious persons and providing emergency services during times of natural disasters and civil unrest.

Current membership of the Cranford Auxiliary Police stands at 16 and the members are:



# Auxiliary Police

## Cranford Police Department Auxiliary Police

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### **Auxiliary Captain Ralph Gregson**

Auxiliary Lieutenant Anthony Matusawicz

Auxiliary Lieutenant James Nalepa

Auxiliary Sergeant Russell Albert

Auxiliary Officer Phillip Andrews

Auxiliary Officer Edward Bernier Jr

Auxiliary Officer Justin Conklin

Auxiliary Officer Archie DeMartino

Auxiliary Officer Andrew Deweever

Auxiliary Officer Terance Duane

Auxiliary Officer Gregory Federici

Auxiliary Officer Ewa Jackson-Feldt

Auxiliary Officer Michael Meistrell

Auxiliary Officer Eddie Solice

Auxiliary Officer Michael Urbanski

Auxiliary Officer Jedeon Virata

Auxiliary Officer Francis Young

In 2011, the Cranford Police Auxiliary welcomed Andrew Deweever who graduated from the Auxiliary Police Academy in April. Officer Deweever is a great addition to our unit and we wish him years of success. We also lost two Officers this year. Officer Stephen Pietrucha retired after serving the Township for 12 years. We wish Stephen the best in his future and thank him for his years of dedicated service to the Auxiliary and the Town. Officer John Regan fulfilled a personal goal and was hired by Union County Corrections where he is serving as a Corrections Officer. John served proudly for 6 years and for that service, we are grateful. Good luck in your endeavors. With these vacancies comes the approval for three new Auxiliary Officers. Burim Kadrijaj, Javier Nino and Kennet Novak are scheduled

to enter the Police Auxiliary Academy In February of 2012 at the John H. Stamler Police Academy. We look forward to increasing our membership with these fine gentlemen.

This year the Cranford Auxiliary Police volunteered over 2100 hours of service to the community. The services that the Cranford Auxiliary Police provided during the devastation from Hurricane Irene were invaluable. Their presence enabled sworn officers to respond to higher priority emergency calls, but still provided staffing levels that, otherwise, would have been absent. The service provided by our auxiliary police to both the department and community is invaluable and cannot be measured in dollars and cents.

**Photo Below, left to right, Auxiliary Captain Gregson and Auxiliary Officer Regan assisting during Hurricane Irene recovery.**



# Police Explorer Post

## Cranford Police Explorer Post #74

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Law Enforcement Exploring is run through the Boy Scouts of America. Exploring is a program designed to educate and involve youth in police operations and to expose them to law enforcement functions.

The Cranford Police Explorer Post #74 was established in 1982 and has served hundreds of children in those years. Numerous members of the Cranford Police Department were previously Explorers. The current advisors to the post are Capt Joseph VanBergen, D/Sgt Christopher Polito, and Off. Steven D'Ambola

In 2011 the Post had 18 members. That number is continually growing due to the recruitment efforts of the members of the Post.

We are proud to report that the Post performed over 200 hours of volunteer service for the department and township. The Post continued to hold training sessions at the monthly meetings. These sessions included discussions and training videos on current police topics and hands on practical scenarios. Post advisors taught "10" codes and phonetic alphabet, traffic control, crowd control, traffic accident report and traffic summons writing, DWI enforcement, CDS investigations, gang recognition, crime scene investigation, first aid, CPR and other basic department procedures.

Some of the activities the Post participated in during 2011 were traffic control at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks, Spring and Fall Festivals, Memorial Day parade, and firearms qualifications. One of the highlights of the Explorer experience is participating in the Police Department's Ride-Along Program. In this program the Explorer goes on patrol with an experienced police officer and receives first hand view of their roles and responsibilities. In this way, the basic idea of civic responsibility can be instilled.

In the last week of June 2011, Explorer Ryan McSharry attended the Montville Police Department Law Enforcement Academy. The

academy was a weeklong sleep over camp that's daily activities started from sunrise and continued past sunset. Through the week, Explorer McSharry and explorers from throughout the state, endured a rigorous and structured schedule including PT, EVOC training, firearms familiarization, crime scene processing, active shooter training and numerous other law enforcement classes. The week culminated with a graduation ceremony held at the Morris County Police Academy.



**Top photo,** Explorer McSharry with Patrolman D'Ambola at his graduation from Montville Police Explorer Academy. **Bottom photo,** Explorer learning firearms safety from Patrolman Fay.

# Records Division

## Cranford Police Department Records Division

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Detective Sergeant Craig Marino commands the Records Division, which has many responsibilities. In December Detective Sergeant Gerard Quinn was assigned to the Records Division.

One of the primary responsibilities is records management. Every report generated within the Cranford Police Department gets processed through the Records Division for data entry and quality assurance. By law, the Cranford Police Department is required to maintain each and every record for a specified amount of time and provide for access to these reports under the provisions set forth in the Open Public Records Act. Reports are also provided to attorneys under discovery rules for courtroom proceedings. These acts are completed with the help of his experienced administrative staff, Jean McComb and Suzanne Welsh. Both Administrative Clerks are well versed in Gun Permit Rules, Dog and Cat Licensing, Parking Rules, Alarm Registrations, Rules of Discovery, The Open Public Records Act and Criminal Record Expungements. These are just some of the responsibilities that fall under the Records Division.

Most of the services provided by the Records Division generate revenue. The Records Division registered alarms for businesses and residences within the Township and billed for multiple false alarms. This provided for a total revenue of \$45,798.00.

In January of each year, the Records Division teams up with the Cranford Health Department and hold a rabies clinic for both cats and dogs. At this clinic we have a table set up for the issuance of licenses.

Residents brave the, usually in climate, weather to obtain two valuable services in one outing. This valuable service is well received not only by the Township residents, but also their pets. A license for a cat or dog that is spayed or neutered is sold for \$18.00 and a license for a cat or dog that is not spayed or neutered is sold for \$21.00. A total of 244 cats and 1125 dogs were licensed. This generated a total revenue of \$24,800.50.

As a commuter town, parking is a vital resource to the infrastructure. It is what draws many hard working families to Cranford. Easy accessibility to New York City, Newark Liberty Airport and the many prestigious learning institutions in the metro area entices many to our Town. Our parking program allows for a variety of uses in our downtown area. The Records Division issues parking permits for commuters, shoppers, business owners, and residents. The nine (9) hour permit provides business owners and their employees a place to park while providing goods and services to the town. These permits cost \$500.00 for the year. They are issued semi-annual or annual. Twelve (12) hour permits allow the mass transportation commuter flexibility in their workday. Twelve (12) hour parking permits are also issued semi-annual or annual and cost \$600.00 for the year. Some of these permits are issued to non-residents for the Parking Garage and they cost \$780.00 for the year. For those that live in the downtown area we provide overnight parking permits at \$200.00 for the year. The Records Division also issues smart cards to be used at the pay stations. Some roadways in Cranford allow for residential



# Records Division

## Cranford Police Department Records Division

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exemptions from parking restrictions. These permits are free of cost. These permits are color-coded for different sections of town. Parking continues to be our largest revenue generator at \$389,807.06.

The Records Division also collects revenues from Firearms Applications, Fingerprinting, Bicycle Licensing and copies of Police Reports. The Cranford Police Departments Detective Bureau provides fingerprinting services on Tuesdays for persons that need to submit their fingerprints out of state or to the federal government only. The Cranford Police Department provides this service for a fee of \$5.00 for residents.

The Cranford Police Department is partnered with the National Bike Registry to offer residents discounted bicycle licenses. These licenses are sold for \$4.00 each and are valid for ten years. Adding the parking

and animal licensing revenue to the daily revenue from Firearms Applications, Fingerprinting Services, Bicycle Licensing, and Police Reports brought the **total revenue for 2011 to \$473,602.56.**

Sergeant Marino is also the Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC Officer) and he is responsible for maintenance, training and review of the NCIC, CJIS, CCH and NCIC2000 systems. All members of the Cranford Police Department were given and passed a written test on these systems as required by The New Jersey State Police.

The Records Division also has the responsibility of entering data from all motor vehicle summonses and warnings issued into an access database. The Traffic Division uses this database to issue a statistical monthly report on the number and type of summonses issued.



**Above,** EMS per diem Michael Urbanski and EMS Supervisor Jeff Webb on their last day of work. After ten years of service, responsibility for EMS services was transferred from the Police Department to the Fire Department on July 1st at 1830 hours.



# Traffic Division

## Cranford Police Department Traffic Division

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The Traffic Division is comprised of a supervisor, two traffic detectives, two traffic maintenance personnel, one meter enforcement officer, and fourteen school crossing guards.

The Cranford Police Department Traffic Division utilizes the three “E’s” of traffic safety (Education, Enforcement, and Engineering) to formulate a comprehensive traffic safety plan for the Township.

### **CRASHES**

Traffic personnel review every crash report written by patrol officers and conduct any follow up investigation that may be necessary. Each report is entered into a database program that allows us to identify trends around the township and determine crash causation. In addition, all crashes are pinned on a map of the township located in the Traffic Division office.

### **EDUCATION**

The Cranford Police Department works energetically to insure safe practices by the users of our roadways through multiple “**education**” initiatives. Educational programs in the schools include such topics as Driving While Under the Influence, Teen Driving, Bicycle Rodeos, Bicycle Safety and Registrations, Pedestrian Safety, Don’t Talk To Strangers, and Use of School Crossing Guards.

Other educational programs administered by the Traffic Division include the HERO Designate Driver Campaign, WHALE Child Safety Campaign, PACE Car Program, Keep Kids Alive Drive 25 Campaign and the Alive at 25 Parent Program.

Detective Steven Toy is responsible for organizing and conducting bicycle and pedestrian safety lectures as well as bicycle rodeos at every grammar school in Cranford.

Detective Toy also provides training to the school crossing guards every year.

Detective Lieutenant Edward Davenport provides training to local parents with the Alive at 25 Program.

### **ENFORCEMENT**

The “**enforcement**” of our laws ensures that the education is carried out.

Detective Luedecker conducts selective enforcement assignments as his primary assignment within Traffic. The division also issues Traffic Enforcement Bulletins to the Patrol Division so they can focus their own selective enforcement efforts where they are needed most. When crashes occur, it is usually because of a type of careless operation. Due to the severe injuries that occur during high speed crashes, we are constantly enforcing the speed laws.

The department continues to use the Speed Trailer, Speed Dolly, and LED Speed Sentries on township roadways to alert drivers of their speed. After the trailer/dolly is on the roadway for a few days, it is then removed and followed up by radar enforcement. These signs are very effective in bringing speed compliance to neighborhood streets. In fact, studies have shown that use of these speed displays have a better and longer term effect on speeding than strictly enforcement.

The Traffic Division monitors the number of cars using a given roadway, their speeds,

# Traffic Division

## Cranford Police Department Traffic Division

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and vehicle classification by using its two JAMAR Traffic Counters. This data is used to focus our enforcement on the areas that need it most and during the times of the most frequent violations.

We also enforce bicycle violations and issue both summonses and warnings depending on the severity of the case. We impound bicycles that are unsafe or are being operated in an unsafe manner and also impound skateboards and other human powered devices that are operated in a careless manner.

The Department applied for and was awarded a number of enforcement grants from the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety in 2011 totaling \$13,400. The first was \$4,000 for “Click It or Ticket” efforts between May 23<sup>rd</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup>. The Department also received \$4,400 of grant money for the “Over the Limit, Under Arrest” DWI Enforcement program from August 19<sup>th</sup> to September 5<sup>th</sup> and \$5,000 for “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” DWI Enforcement from December 5<sup>th</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **ENGINEERING**

The Traffic Division is constantly looking for ways to make our roads safer. “**Engineering**” at certain intersections and roadways is found to be a cause of many traffic problems.

Data is collected from traffic counters, crash reports, intersection reviews, and citizen complaints in order to assist the Traffic Division in evaluating roadways or intersections for engineering changes. These changes can be as simple as better

signage or pavement markings or can be as complicated as roadway widening or traffic signal installations.

One engineering project handled in 2011 was the authorization of a 30 MPH speed limit along Centennial Avenue from North Avenue East to Wall Street. This was concluded after several speed studies were conducted by the Traffic Division and the Union County Engineering Department.

### **Law Enforcement Challenge**

The Cranford Police Department was honored in May for receiving a first place finish in the 46-75 officer category ***New Jersey Law Enforcement Challenge***.

### **Community Programs**

***PACE Car Program:*** This is a citizen based traffic calming program which supplements the department’s Keep Kids Alive Drive 25® initiative. The goal of the Pace Car Program is to create safer Cranford streets by encouraging residents to proactively promote driver responsibility and roadway safety through an educational and awareness campaign. Residents participate in the Pace Car Program by pledging to drive safely and within the posted speed limits while displaying a KKAD25 vehicle magnet or bumper sticker on the rear of their vehicle. The magnets and stickers are provided free of charge to residents as the police department’s thank you for helping to be part of the solution of safer streets and keeping our kids safe.

***Pedestrian Decoy Program:*** The Pedestrian Decoy Program is meant to educate drivers and pedestrians of the state’s pedestrian safety laws. In addition to education,

# Traffic Division

## Cranford Police Department Traffic Division

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enforcement is used to reinforce driver observance of the Stop for Pedestrians law which was enacted on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 to replace the old Yield for Pedestrians law.

During details a police officer in plain clothes acts as the pedestrian and the other officers stop vehicles that fail to stop for the pedestrian. The program will ultimately improve driver compliance and pedestrian safety.

### **TRAFFIC COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

On a regular basis, safety meetings are held with members of the **Traffic Coordinating Committee**. This committee is comprised of members from the Police Department, Fire Department, Township Administrator's Office, Engineering Department, Department of Public Works, Board of Education, and the Downtown Management Corporation. During the past year the following projects were handled by the Traffic Division and placed on the agenda of this committee for review:

- Centennial Avenue Corridor Study was completed in October 2010 and included recommendations for new traffic signals at the intersection of Centennial Avenue and Hillside Avenue that will be coordinated with upgraded signals at Myrtle Street. In addition, the Wall Street traffic signal will also be upgraded. The Raritan Road signal will receive a new battery back-up system. In 2011 the study was forwarded to Union County Engineering. The recommendations for upgrades and changes have been accepted and construction is scheduled to begin in 2012.

- New parking ordinances were adopted for both Yale Terrace and Romore Place. They included a "Parking Prohibited at All Times", "Preferential Parking Zones", and "Parking Prohibited Certain Hours".

- All on-street parking, in the Downtown, that is regulated by our multi-space pay stations was reprogrammed to allow shoppers 10 minutes free parking.

- The Cranford Police Department partnered with CarFax to offer our Township's crash reports online to customers. Although crash reports can still be picked up in person at police headquarters, this proved to be a convenient option for the public.

### **SCHOOL GUARDS**

During the 2010-2011 school year the Traffic Division was required to provide coverage at **269** school post assignments due to school guards failing to report for duty for either personal or medical reasons. During this calendar year, a total of **180** public/parochial school days occurred of which only **35** did not require members of the police department to fill in for a school guard. This equated to **1.49** school guards out every school day which was a decrease over the 2.37 the previous year (2009-2010) and from the 1.69 in 2008-2009. These posts were covered by reserve school guards, the parking enforcement officer, and sworn personnel.

### **OTHER DUTIES**

Lieutenant Edward Davenport's responsibilities include assigning selective enforcement details, scheduling, traffic maintenance planning, ordinance development, purchasing bids and quotes,

# Traffic Division

## Cranford Police Department Traffic Division

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managing the Cranford Police Cooperative Pricing Program, traffic safety grants, site plan reviews, and testifying at township board and committee meetings. One major responsibility that keeps him busy is the filling of extra duty assignments. In 2011 the Traffic Division coordinated and filled **570 off duty jobs**. These jobs include traffic control at township festivals and construction zones, as well as security at private events.

Lieutenant Davenport maintains the responsibility of Fleet Manager and is in charge of making sure the police vehicle fleet is maintained by Traffic Maintenance personnel. He is also responsible for vehicle equipment and upgrades to the equipment.

Lieutenant Davenport is a member of the Traffic Coordinating Committee, Parking Advisory Committee, Union County Traffic Officers Association, New Jersey Police Traffic Officers Association, New Jersey Association of Accident Reconstructionists, and is a Notary Public.

Detective Toy has the responsibility of vehicle impounds and obtaining junk titles on all vehicles not claimed. New Jersey State Statute requires that any vehicle held for more than 20 business days be auctioned. This requires him to send certified mail to all owners/lien holders requesting they respond to pick up their vehicle otherwise it will be sold at auction. In 2011 about **383 vehicles** were towed and two auctions were held for any vehicles not reclaimed by owners. Detective Toy is in charge of advertising, setting up, and running the department's car, bicycle, and equipment auctions.

Also, Detective Toy is responsible for the data entry of the daily crash reports and vehicle reports. He is responsible for School Crossing Guard training and payroll.

Detective Toy is a member of the Union County Traffic Officers Association, New Jersey Police Traffic Officers Association, Cranford Bicycle Safety Board, and is a Notary Public. He is also a certified Child Passenger Seat Technician.

Detective Luedecker is responsible for the in-car video camera systems, portable radio maintenance and assists in managing fleet maintenance. In addition, Detective Luedecker coordinates the purchase, installation, maintenance, and repair of the mobile personal computers (MPC) in the radio cars. He is also a certified Child Passenger Seat Technician and Radar Instructor. Detective Luedecker is a member of the Union County Traffic Officers Association (Secretary), New Jersey Police Traffic Officers Association, and is a Notary Public.

The Traffic Division coordinates all of the maintenance and repair of portable and mobile police radios. All insurance claims related to police vehicles, Victorian street lights, parking garage lights, traffic lights, and traffic signs are handled by Traffic Division personnel as well.

The 425 on-street parking meters and nineteen central space rental machines are maintained and collected by Traffic Maintenance personnel. The central pay stations allow for easier maintenance, collection, and security.

# Traffic Division

## Cranford Police Department Traffic Division

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A central parking system server allows us to monitor payment, violations, and status at all pay stations. All pay stations connect via a cellular connection to the server and report use as well as any malfunctions as they happen. Parking enforcement personnel carry a smart-phone with web access that reports real time use of the lots. A quick glance at the phone displays expired meters as well as meter malfunctions.

Members of the Traffic Division are on call on a rotating basis in order to provide 24 hour a day, 365 days a year coverage in the event of a serious or fatal motor vehicle accident. Each Detective is on call for two weeks at a time with the Lieutenant providing coverage as needed.

Cranford hosts dozens of productions for commercials, television shows, and movies in a given year. All coordination between the township and production companies was done by the Traffic Division. This included arranging for extra duty police officers, street closings, special parking, security, and more.

### **TRAFFIC MAINTENANCE**

As is the case every year, Traffic Maintenance personnel were busy in 2011. They are responsible for the maintenance and repair of all vehicles in the police department fleet; vehicle equipment installation; street sign maintenance and installation; maintenance and repair of 16 traffic signal intersections and 5 flashing lights; crosswalk and centerline painting; meter maintenance and collection; maintaining approximately 400 Victorian lights; bicycle rodeo setup; traffic counter placement; Speed Trailer placement; parking

garage lighting; and much more. Traffic Maintenance personnel are also on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week in case of storms, power outages, and traffic light damage/ maintenance.

### **Member of the Traffic Division over the last year were:**

Detective Lieutenant Edward R. Davenport

Detective Steven R. Toy

Detective Russell J. Luedecker

### **Civilian Personnel included:**

Ralph Gregson, *Parking Enforcement*

Charles Fette, *Traffic Maintenance*

Joseph Corbisiero, *Traffic Maintenance*

Brian Trotter, *Summer Traffic Maintenance*

Alex Powell, *Summer Traffic Maintenance*



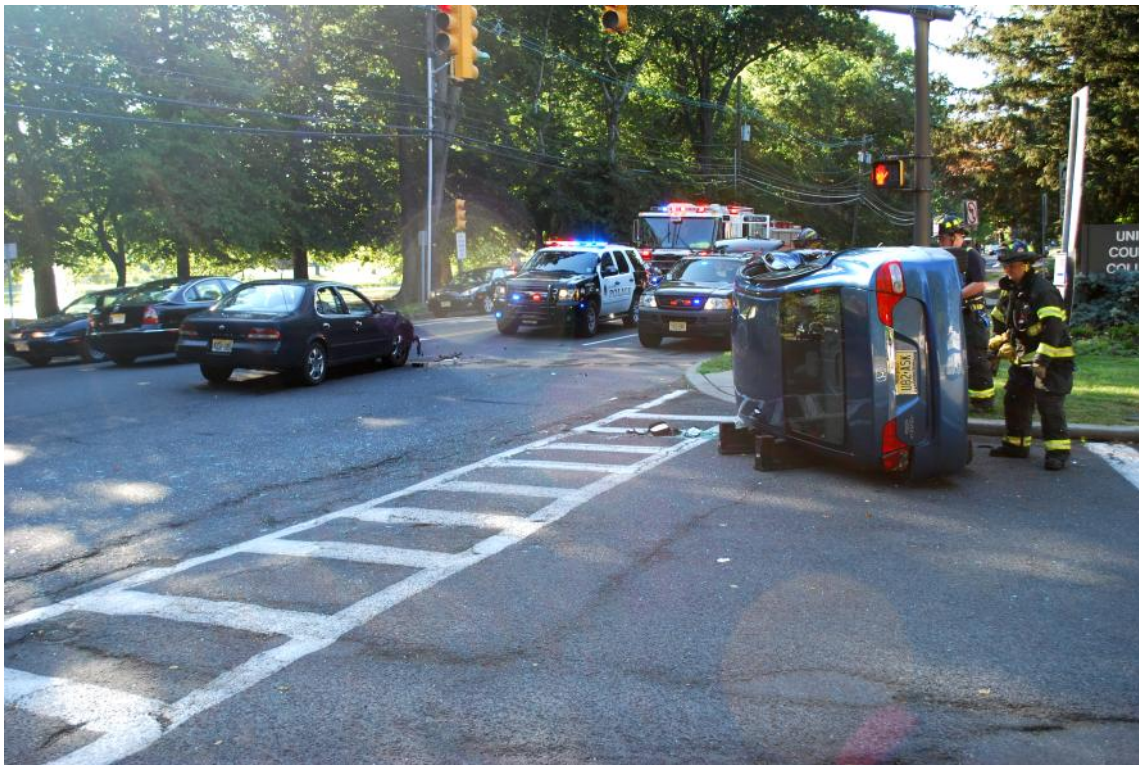
**Above,** School Crossing Guard Charles Haller on post at Springfield Avenue and West End Place during a snow storm.



# Traffic Division

## Cranford Police Department Traffic Division

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**Top Photo**, a visitor to the Library on Walnut Avenue drove through the parking lot fence in July.

**Bottom Photo**, a two car collision with roll over fronting Union County College on November 27th.

# Law Enforcement Challenge

## Cranford Police Department: 2011 Law Enforcement Challenge Winners

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The Cranford Police Department was honored on May 20, 2011 after receiving a first place finish in the 46-75 officer category of the New Jersey Law Enforcement Challenge for the fourth consecutive year. The Law Enforcement Challenge is a competition between similar sizes and types of law enforcement agencies. It recognizes and rewards the best overall traffic safety programs in the United States. The areas of concentration include efforts to enforce laws and educate the public about occupant protection, impaired driving, and speeding. The winning safety programs are those that combine officer training, public information, and enforcement to reduce crashes and injuries within its jurisdiction.

For placing first in our category, the department received a Doppler radar unit from MPH

Industries, Inc. valued at \$2,500. Unlike traditional radar units, this unit allows officers to isolate traffic from only one lane, while disregarding other lanes and directions. The radar unit will be used for speed enforcement on a daily basis.

The Law Enforcement Challenge is financed through a grant awarded to the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Both of these organizations believe an increase in traffic enforcement in a community results in a decrease in motor vehicle crashes, injuries, and fatalities. The New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police has established it's own state Challenge program along with the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety.



**Above,** left to right, Captain John C. Baer and Detective Russ Luedecker help get the word out for the department's 2011 Click It Or Ticket Campaign.

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# Crashes and Injuries

## Cranford Police Department Crashes and Injuries Summary

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### REPORTABLE CRASHES

	2010		2011		
Type	Crashes	Fatal	Crashes	Fatal	% Change
Motor Vehicle vs. Motor Vehicle	90	0	63	0	-30%
Motor Vehicle vs. Fixed Object	14	0	18	0	+29%
Motor Vehicle vs. Pedestrian	15	0	7	0	-53%
Motor Vehicle vs. Bicyclist	13	0	6	0	-46%
Motor Vehicle vs. Parked Vehicle	16	0	7	0	-44%
Other	0	0	0	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-32%</b>

### NON-REPORTABLE CRASHES

Type	2010	2011	% Change
Motor Vehicle vs. Motor Vehicle	409	408	-1%
Motor Vehicle vs. Fixed Object	43	45	+5%
Motor Vehicle vs. Pedestrian	0	0	0%
Motor Vehicle vs. Bicyclist	1	5	+400%
Motor Vehicle vs. Parked Vehicle	157	177	+13%
Other	8	14	+75%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>+5%</b>

### INJURIES

Type	2010	2011	% Change
Transported to Hospital	52	30	-42%
Complaint of Pain (RMA)	107	74	-31%
Fatality	0	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>-35%</b>

# Violations

## Cranford Police Department Motor Vehicle Violations

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The following is a comparative classification of motor vehicle violations between the period of January 2011 and December 2011 with the same period in 2010.

<b>VIOLATION</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Speeding	313	161
Stop Sign	41	32
Careless Driving	300	287
Reckless Driving	8	5
Driving Under The Influence	77	85
Open Container In Vehicle	20	15
CDS In Motor Vehicle	71	61
Wrong Way on One Way Street	6	4
Traffic Signal	166	71
Improper Passing	49	60
Illegal Turns	85	84
Obstructing Traffic	90	202
Driving While On Cell Phone	239	188
Unlicensed Driver	103	91
Revoked Driver	284	195
Unregistered Vehicle	179	139
Uninsured Motorist	70	46
No License In Possession	160	101
No Registration In Possession	152	125
No Insurance Card In Possession	179	175
Leaving The Scene Of An Accident	27	30
Fictitious/Obstructed Plates	262	258
Maintenance Of Lamps	620	562
Seatbelt Violations	770	695
Safety Glass Violations	481	386
Inspection Law	363	222
Other Hazardous Violations	261	136
Other Non-Hazardous Violations	274	216
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5,650</b>	<b>4,632</b>



# Violations

## Cranford Police Department Parking Violations

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The following is a comparative classification of parking violations between the period of January 2011 and December 2011 with the same period in 2010.

VIOLATION	2010	2011
Meter Parking	3,902	3,492
4:30 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.	452	490
Restricted Hours	592	779
9 Hour Permit	414	366
12 Hour Permit	93	89
Overnight Parking	393	449
25' Of An Intersection	50	34
25' Of A Crosswalk	163	246
2 Hour Limit	282	376
10' Of A Fire Hydrant	20	20
50' Of A Stop Sign	99	114
Parked On A Crosswalk	6	5
Parked On A Sidewalk	10	9
Blocking A Driveway	16	30
School Zone	91	39
Bus Stop	3	1
Disabled Vehicle	13	0
Fire Zone	34	44
Facing Wrong Direction On Street	80	97
Between Signs	4	6
Head In Only	44	62
Not Within Lines	210	182
Handicapped	26	18
Loading Zone	57	48
Meter Feeding	7	46
No Parking Anytime	143	141
Other Parking Violations	28	101
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>7,232</b>	<b>7,284</b>

# Motorized Equipment

## Cranford Police Department Motorized Equipment

The Cranford Police Department's motorized equipment presently consists of 37 units; 20 cars, six sport utilities, two motorcycles, three traffic trucks, one electric vehicle, three trailers, and two boats with trailers. Below is a list of these vehicles:

- 1 2010 Harley Davidson Motorcycle
- 1 1995 Harley Davidson Motorcycle
- 1 1994 Chevrolet Suburban 4X4
- 1 2004 Ford Excursion 4X4
- 1 2004 Ford Explorer 4X4
- 1 2006 Ford Explorer 4X4
- 1 2008 Chevrolet Tahoe 4X4
- 1 2010 Chevrolet Tahoe 4X4
- 1 2010 Dodge Charger
- 5 2010 Ford Police Interceptors
- 5 2008 Ford Police Interceptors
- 3 2006 Ford Police Interceptors
- 1 2005 Ford Police Interceptor
- 1 2003 Ford Police Interceptor
- 1 2002 Ford Police Interceptors

- 2 2000 Ford LTD Crown Victorias
- 1 2001 Ford F-450 Super Duty Platform Truck
- 1 2000 Ford F-450 Super Duty Bucket Truck
- 1 1999 Ford F-250 Super Duty Pick-up Truck
- 1 1998 Toyota Camry
- 1 2007 T3 Motion
- 2 2001 Zodiac Boats & Trailers
- 1 2003 Kristi Utility Trailer
- 1 2009 AMD Portable Light Tower
- 1 1998 AMR Speed /Message Board Trailer

A total of **275,474 miles** were traveled by motorized equipment during the year of 2011. Vehicles were serviced approximately every 3,000 miles and were cleaned and washed on average of once a week.

**Below,** Water Rescue Team vehicle awaiting deployment during Hurricane Irene.



# School Safety

## Cranford Police Department School Crossing Guards

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An important safety measure in school areas is the use of school crossing guards. We once again, salute them and extend our sincere appreciation for a job well done in protecting our most precious possessions. Rain or shine we can always be assured that these dedicated people will be on the job!

The year 2011 included a number of personnel changes within the school guard ranks. Below are the retirements from 2011. This year we had the retirement of Louise Ruggiano from her post at Brookside Ave. and Spruce St.. Louise had faithfully crossed students for 26 years of service. John Leonard retired from his post at West End Pl. and Spruce St after 19 years of service. Sol Rubenstien retired from his post at Springfield and Doering Way after four years of service. It is with sadness that we report the passing of Elizabeth “Betty” Manfredo. Betty served as a crossing guard for over 46 years. Many students walking along South Union Ave. will surely miss her.

As with all programs offered by the Cranford Police Department, the School Safety Program is constantly analyzed and adjusted as needs change. As a result of a pedestrian traffic study, the school guard posts were restructured for the 2011-2012 school year. Eight guard posts were eliminated for the start of the academic year. These posts included: North Lehigh Tunnel, Retford Ave. and Livingston Ave., Lexington Ave. and Denman Pl., South Union Ave. and Livingston Ave., Brookside Pl. and Gallows Hill Rd., Brookside Pl. and Orchard St., and Springfield Ave. and Doering Way. The following guards didn’t return for the 2011-2012 school year due to the post restructuring: Michael Bevilacqua, William Borski, Charles Campbell, Susan Czarnatowicz, Thomas Gugliucci, Samuel Manderson, James Mulcahy and Daniel Simone. We wish all of our former guards luck in their future endeavors.

Below is a list of guard positions as of the end of 2011.

### SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS - 2011

Howard Frost	Brookside Place/Spruce Street
Elizabeth Erdody	Hillside Avenue Tunnel
Elsie Muldrow	Orange Avenue/Wadsworth Terrace
Sam Reynolds	Denman Road/Culin Drive
Robert Bell	West End Place/Spruce Street
Charles Haller	Springfield Avenue/West End Place
Nazaire Jennings	Centennial Avenue/Myrtle Street
Joseph Lopes	Alden Street/Miln Street
Margaret Herzer	Denman Road/Livingston Avenue
Betty Mobley	Walnut Avenue/Blake Avenue
Iris Lopez	Bloomingdale Avenue/Albany Street

### RESERVE GUARDS

Deborah Saenger  
Leonard Messner  
James Desiderio

# Click It or Ticket

## Cranford Police Department Annual Click It or Ticket Mobilization

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The Cranford Police Department received \$4,000 in grant money from the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety for seatbelt enforcement during the national “Click It or Ticket” campaign. The goal of the program is to increase seatbelt usage rates through education and enforcement.

New Jersey reported 554 fatalities in 2010, a large percentage of which were not wearing a seatbelt. Also, seatbelt use is especially important for teens and young adults, as motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for people ages 15 to 34 in the United States.

This year’s “Click It or Ticket” Mobilization was conducted from May 23, 2011 to June 5, 2011. The department conducted four seat belt checkpoints and 55 hours of focused roving patrols utilizing overtime, patrol, and traffic personnel. In addition, we conducted 22 hours of night time enforcement due to statistics pointing to very low seat belt use in the evening. A total of 80 hours of overtime were utilized, which was reimbursed by the grant. Below is a summary of the department’s enforcement efforts.

**Total Seatbelt Violations:** 116

**All Other Violations:** 237

**TOTAL SUMMONSES DURING THE MOBILIZATION:** 353



In addition to the summonses issued arrests included 23 for drug possession and/or felony/warrant arrests. A post survey of seat belt usage showed a 97% compliance rate on Cranford roadways.





# Over the Limit, Under Arrest

## Cranford Police Department Over the Limit, Under Arrest Mobilization

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The Cranford Police Department participated in the national end of summer and holiday "Over the Limit, Under Arrest" 2011 Statewide Crackdowns. The goal of the program is to decrease incidents of drunk driving through education and enforcement.

From August 19<sup>th</sup> to September 5<sup>th</sup> 2011, the Cranford Police Department stepped up impaired driving enforcement as part of New Jersey's end of summer *Over the Limit, Under Arrest 2011 Statewide Crackdown*. The department received a \$4,400 grant from the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety for 88 hours of overtime enforcement.

The summer driving season, which concludes with the Labor Day holiday, is traditionally a time for social gatherings, which often include alcohol. The goal of the program is to raise awareness about the dangers of drinking and driving through high-visibility enforcement, and to arrest motorists who choose to drive while impaired by drugs or alcohol.

From December 5, 2011 through January 2, 2012, the Department stepped up impaired driving enforcement as part of *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2011 Year End Crackdown*. The department also received a \$5,000 grant from the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety for 100 hours of overtime enforcement during this holiday year end period.



The department conducted roving patrols utilizing patrol and overtime personnel during both mobilizations. Below is a summary of the department's enforcement efforts for each.

### TOTAL PRODUCTIVITY DURING THE MOBILIZATIONS:

	<u>8/19/11—9/5/11</u>	<u>12/5/11—1/2/12</u>
DWI Arrests	3	12
Drug Arrests	3	10
Warrant Arrests	28	34
Summonses	363	424

# Safety ID Program

## Cranford Police Department Safety ID Tag Program

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The department continued its Safety ID Tag Program which began in 2005 in order to give outdoor exercisers a little piece of mind. Participants can come to police headquarters to obtain a Safety ID Tag at no cost to them. They will be issued a reflective, waterproof Safety ID Tag which can attach to their sneaker/shoe laces.

The Safety ID Tag contains basic contact information, as well as pertinent medical information such as allergies that will assist first responders in case of a medical emergency. Since many people go for walks or a run without any identification, this small Safety ID Tag can be a lifesaver.

Police Chief Eric G. Mason stated he would encourage all Cranford runners, joggers, and walkers to come to police headquarters and pick up their free Safety ID Tag. The tags have also been picked up by parents for use by their small children.

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**Above,** Patrolman William Pietrucha leads the Memorial Day Parade along Walnut Avenue.

## Cranford Police Department Driving While Intoxicated Program

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The number of alcohol related accidents resulting in both fatal and serious injuries continues to be a major focal point for law enforcement throughout the country. Despite the major changes made in New Jersey's DWI laws, the news media continually reminds us of the deadly consequences of driving while under the influence of alcohol and/or illicit drugs. On the local level we are not immune to this problem. During the year **2011** we had, in Cranford, **14 accidents** (Four involving injury) directly attributed to drunk drivers. There has been **a decrease** in the number of alcohol related accidents over the **15** we had in 2010. In order to keep decreasing this number, the Cranford Police Department will continue to aggressively seek out and arrest those that would drive through our community while under the influence of alcohol and/or illicit drugs.

Our officers are aware that there are certain medical conditions that mimic the behaviors of a drunk driver. Because of this it becomes necessary to have highly trained officers that are capable of detecting those drivers that are under the influence of alcohol and/or narcotics and those whose actions may be caused by one of several common medical conditions. This is where the use of Standardized Field Sobriety Testing and breath test machines such as the **Alcotest 7110 MK III-C** play a significant role in aiding the officer in making a determination as to whether or not someone is under the influence of alcohol and/or illicit drugs, or is perhaps suffering from a medical condition.

The **Alcotest 7110 MK III-C** is an instrument that measures the alcoholic content of a person's blood through analysis of a breath sample. The **Alcotest** is a computerized instrument that uses two different measuring systems to analyze breath alcohol. Infrared spectroscopy and electro chemical cell technology are both used in conjunction with technologically advanced computer technology to obtain highly accurate breath test readings.

Upon the conclusion of **2011** the department had twenty-two (**21**) officers certified as **Alcotest 7110 MK III-C** operators, all of whom were trained by the *Office of the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey*. Instruction on Field Sobriety Testing as well as the **Alcotest** is conducted solely by the New Jersey State Police Alcohol/Drug Test Unit. Currently the following officers are qualified to administer breath tests:

Lt. Stephen Wilde  
Det./Lt. James Wozniak  
Lt. Robert Colaneri  
Det./Lt. Edward Davenport  
Sgt. Anthony Dobbins  
Sgt. Thomas Feeney  
Det./Sgt. Craig Marino  
Det./Sgt. Gerard Quinn  
Sgt. Frank Williams  
Sgt. Guy Patterson  
Det./Sgt. Christopher Polito  
Det./Sgt. Richard Vitale  
Det. John Swandrak  
Det. Robert Montague  
Det. Michael Andrews  
Det. Steven R Toy  
Det. Ryan Greco  
Ptl. Peter Graczyk  
Ptl. Derek Farbanec  
Ptl. Thomas Bell  
Ptl. Brian Wagner

As in previous years this agency stressed to our officers the need to detect and apprehend those driving while intoxicated.

During the year **2011** these efforts resulted in eighty five (**85**) arrests being made for

Driving While Intoxicated within the Township of Cranford.

Of the **85** arrests, **16** refused to submit to breath testing and **2** had blood drawn. This shows a

# DWI

## Cranford Police Department Driving While Intoxicated Program

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**10%** increase from the **77** arrests made in the year **2010**.

Breath Tests are the primary tool used by officers to determine a subject's level of intoxication. The Cranford Police Department also has another very important tool at its disposal to identify those under the influence of alcohol and/or illicit drugs. One such resource is the **Drug Recognition Expert**. Detective Michael Andrews is a **DRE (Drug Recognition Expert)** Certified by the *New Jersey State Attorney General's Office* to conduct tests on individuals suspected of being under the influence of narcotics.

As we move forward into the year **2012** the citizens of our community can rest assured that we will continue our aggressive enforcement practices. We will continue to send a strong message to those that would violate our drunk driving laws that they will be arrested should they drive through our community.

A part of New Jersey's DWI laws pertains directly to those drivers under the legal drinking age of 21. This law states that anyone under the legal drinking age of 21 can be charged if their blood alcohol level is anywhere between .01% to .07%. This in essence means that anyone under the legal drinking age who consumes as much as one drink and is caught driving can be charged with DWI. In **2010**, five (**5**) drivers were charged under this law. This number has declined to those of **2011** when one (**1**) subject was arrested for underage DWI.

Another portion of New Jersey's DWI laws pertains directly to those operating commercial vehicles. Any operator of a commercial vehicle with a weight over 26,001 lbs that has a blood alcohol reading of .04% or more can be charged with driving while under the influence. We are happy to state that there have been zero (**0**) arrests made within the township under this law in **2011**.

Despite the lowering of the BAC to .08%, we continue to believe that one of the most important programs in reducing the number of drunk drivers on our roadways has been that of educating the public on the hazards of driving while under the influence.

During 2011 the department continued its educational program at Cranford High School in conjunction with the driver education instructor Mr. Gene Millano. This program has been conducted for the past *twenty two* years. The day is dedicated to our officers giving a slide/lecture presentation on alcohol related accidents which have occurred within the township over the past several years. The officers give the students a review of New Jersey Drunk Driving Laws and the consequences they would face if charged for D.W.I.. Afterwards the officers have had some very lively discussions with the students on the laws and penalties involved with drinking and driving, especially those related to the underage driver. We also, during these sessions, receive some very positive input from the students on both our enforcement and educational programs.

The department also participated in the township's spring and fall festivals in the downtown area as well as National Night Out. During these events officers displayed photographs of alcohol related accidents within the township and surrounding communities, and handed out literature on traffic safety. The officers also gave away hundreds of pens, pencils, and bumper stickers all with drunk driving awareness slogans on them. These items were all purchased through grant monies received through a special DWI fund set up by the state which is funded through fines levied against those convicted of DWI.

The department used two extra enforcement initiatives to augment patrol efforts in enforcing DWI within the township. The **Extra DWI Patrol Programs** have been in place since 1988. In



# DWI

## Cranford Police Department Driving While Intoxicated Program

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**2011** we participated in the **Driver Sober or Get Pulled Over** program sponsored by the *New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety*.

The extra patrol program consists of putting extra patrols out on selected weekends (usually holidays) with the specific assignment of detecting and apprehending drivers who are under the influence. *Over the Limit Under arrest 2011 Impaired Driving Crackdown* is a campaign that ran from August 19, 2011 through September 5, 2011. During this eighteen-day period, officers assigned to this campaign made Three **(3)** DWI arrest and issued **(331)** summonses for various violations. *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2011 Year End Crackdown* campaign ran from December 5, 2011 to January 2, 2012. During this twenty-nine day period, officers assigned to this campaign made six **(12)** DWI arrests and issued **(375)** summons for various violations.

In the coming year we will continue to provide educational programs by way of lectures and demonstrations on the hazards of drunk driving to the various religious, civic, and educational organizations within the community. In conjunction with these educational programs we will continue to vigorously enforce the drunk driving laws of our state utilizing patrol and additional enforcement activities.

The problem of drinking and driving is one that continues to demand constant attention. It is only through the combined efforts of education and enforcement that we will continue to strive for a reduction in the senseless and too often tragic accidents that occur on our roadways. The citizens of our community can be assured that the men and women of the Cranford Police Department will do everything in their power to ensure that the streets of our community remain some of the safest in which to live, play, work, and drive in the nation.



**Above,** DWI crash that occurred on South Avenue West at the Cranford and Garwood border in September.

# Honor Guard

## Cranford Police Department Honor Guard

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The Cranford Police Department Honor Guard was initiated in May of 2007.

An **honor guard**, by definition, is a **group of people serving as an escort or performing drill exhibitions on ceremonial occasions.** (Wikipedia)

Usually comprised of volunteers who are carefully screened for their ability and physical dexterity, the department wanted members who are highly motivated and maintain exceptional standards of appearance and conduct. As well, members needed to show aptitude for ceremonial duty in order to be considered. The primary purpose of the CPD Honor Guard is to provide funeral honors for fallen comrades.

However, an honor guard may also serve as the "guardians of the colors". They present a nation's colors for various ceremonies and official state functions, both in and around Union County. Additionally, they serve as ambassadors to the public, presenting a positive image of their service, and assisting with the

recruiting effort.

Sergeant Anthony J. Dobbins is the commander of the Cranford Police Department Honor Guard. Six other members are assigned to the unit. The six other members are Detective Steven Toy, Detective Ryan Greco, Officer Thomas Bell, Officer William Pietrucha, Officer Daniel Norton, and Officer John Ratigan.

The Honor Guard participated in the Memorial Day Parade and presentation of the Ceremonial Wreath. The Honor Guard also participated in several community events.

The Cranford Police Department Honor Guard continues participating in Funeral Services for Retired Cranford Police Officers, officers killed in the line of duty, and officers who passed away while in active service to their respective Police Departments around the State.

They will continue to train, representing the Cranford Police Department with dignity and pride.



**Above**, the Honor Guard at the department's annual Memorial Day ceremony for Patrolman Robert Hand. *Left to right*, Detective Ryan Greco, Patrolman Dan Norton, Patrolman Tom Bell, and Detective Steve Toy.

# Water Rescue Team

## Cranford Police Department Water Rescue Team

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The Cranford Police Department Water Rescue Team was formed in 1998 in response to a need for specialized equipment and trained officers to respond in times of river flooding in the township's flood zones. Throughout the years the Water Rescue Team has evolved to its current format of eight specially trained officers. These officers serve on an on-call basis and respond when the team is activated during times of emergency. Since 2008, Sgt. Guy Patterson has served as the commander of the team.

### Team Members

The Cranford Police Water Rescue Team is comprised of the following personnel:

Sergeant Guy Patterson  
Sergeant Anthony Dobbins  
Sergeant Thomas Feeney  
Det. Ryan Greco  
Officer Timothy O'Brien  
Officer Joseph Stulpin  
Officer Christopher DiFabio  
Officer John Rattigan

### Training

All Water Rescue Team members receive their training through internationally recognized Lifesaving Resources Inc. All officers are trained as Certified Water Rescue Technicians and Certified Swift Water Rescue Technicians. Sgt. Guy Patterson is a Certified Water Rescue and Swift Water Rescue Instructor. Additionally Sergeant Anthony Dobbins, Sergeant Guy Patterson and Officer Joseph Stulpin are Emergency Medical Technicians. Officer John Rattigan is an MICU Paramedic. Team members participate in multiple training sessions throughout the year. These trainings include annual requalification, open water rescue

operations and boat operation training. Requalification training was conducted on 3/11/11 at Centennial Ave. Pool. Open water rescue operations and boat operation training were conducted on 6/20/11 and 11/16/11 at Round Valley Reservoir.

### Equipment:

Russell I – 2001 Zodiac Mark II Futura 12'6"  
Inflatable Boat - Mercury Jet 40 Outboard Motor

Russell II – 2001 Zodiac Mark II Futura 12'6"  
Inflatable Boat - Mercury Jet 40 Outboard Motor

Cold Water Rescue Suits  
Neoprene Full Wet Suits  
Search and Rescue Personal Flotation Devices  
Specialty Stretcher With Flotation Collar  
Rope Rescue Equipment

### Deployment:

On 8/28/2011 the Cranford Police Water Rescue Team was activated in response to heavy rains and flooding caused by Hurricane Irene. Accumulated rainfall of 9.7 inches caused historic levels of flooding throughout the township. The 500 year storm levels caused extensive flooding in the Riverside Drive area. Sections of the township unaccustomed to rising waters saw flooding never before experienced. The Cranford Police Water Rescue Team coordinated with boats crews from the Cranford Fire Department, Union County Police and NJ Task Force 1 Search and Rescue to conduct rescue and evacuation operations throughout the township. Due to the physical barriers created by flooding and rising river levels each team worked in separate areas of the town to assist residents in need. Over 175 people throughout the township were rescued or evacuated by boat.



# Water Rescue Team

## Cranford Police Department Water Rescue Team



**Above,** clockwise from top left, Water Rescue Team deploying zodiac boat on Springfield Avenue. Officers DiFabio and Colineri on a DPW front end loader. Rescue of homeowners on Oak Lane. Sergeant Dobbins evacuating Orange Avenue resident. Officer Rattigan assisting resident and their dog into the rescue boat. Officer Rattigan and Sergeant Dobbins in front of US Army high water vehicle.



# Youth Academy

## Cranford Police Department Youth Police Academy

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The Cranford Police Department held the fifth session of the Youth Police Academy from June 27 through July 1, 2011. The academy gave twenty Cranford juveniles the opportunity to be introduced to law enforcement through a simulated police academy environment. The Youth Police Academy was started in June of 2007 to provide the youth of Cranford with a firsthand introduction to many aspects of law enforcement.

This year, the Youth Academy was held at the Cranford Police Department, the Cranford Community Center and the John H. Stamler Police Academy. The Academy was under the direction of Off. Steven D'Ambola and Det. Robert Montague. The academy participants, "cadets," started their day with roll call. Following roll call the cadets had military drill lead by Off. Joseph Stulpin and a physical training session by Off. D'Ambola and Det. Montague. Physical training consisted of running, pushups, sit-ups, an obstacle course and various other exercises. During the military drill portion of the day, the cadets learned how to stand at attention, complete facing movements, properly salute and march as a unit.

Following PT and drill, the cadets had classroom activities. The first day of the Academy the cadets had a tour of the Cranford Police Department and radio cars. They then received an introduction to the structure of the Cranford Police Department, patrol operations and basic

law. The cadets were brought outside and had the opportunity to conduct mock motor vehicle stops.

The second day of the Academy was held at the Cranford Community Center. The Union County Sheriff's K-9 unit gave a demonstration using both bomb and drug sniffing dogs. After lunch Off. Stulpin gave a presentation of the Cranford Police Water Rescue Team. Det. Montague gave a presentation on crime scene processing and criminal investigations. Off. Christopher DiFabio then gave a lecture on the Union County Homicide Task Force.

The third day of the Academy was held at the John H. Stamler Police Academy. The cadets witnessed of the police vehicles capabilities in a demonstration on the EVOC course before the Northstar Helicopter from UMDNJ landed for its own presentation. The cadets were instructed in proper firearms safety and familiarization of the departments weapons by the lead instructors. Det. Dan Fay then arrived with weapons and tools used by the Union County SWAT team.

The fourth day was again held at the Cranford Community Center. The Cranford EMS squad brought an ambulance and explained the importance of medical assistance in police work before the cadets were instructed on juvenile laws and law enforcement. The cadets completed their day with a hands on presentation by the Union County Bomb Squad and presentation by Det. Russell Luedecker of the Cranford Traffic Division.

The NJSP gang unit gave a presentation of the gangs in New Jersey. Det. Leslie Sanchez,

# Youth Academy

## Cranford Police Department Youth Police Academy

currently assigned to the DEA then gave a remarkable presentation of the DEA's operations in Newark airport and the surrounding communities as well as their combined efforts with local law enforcement. Det. Steven Toy continued DWI instruction by allowing cadets to wear the Fatal Vision goggles and attempt to navigate a pedal cart through an obstacle course.

The Academy ended with a graduation ceremony for the cadets and their families. The cadets marched in and viewed a presentation on what they had accomplished during the week. All of the cadets received certificates for completing the Academy. The cadets left the Academy with a unique insight into the field of law enforcement and the Cranford Police Department.



**Photos,** represent various activities done during the week by the Youth Academy cadets.

# 2011 In Review

## Cranford Police Department Promotions

### Promotional Ceremony

The Cranford Police Department held a promotional ceremony on February 8, 2011 to fill open positions within the command structure of the department.



Richard Vitale was promoted to the rank of Detective Sergeant after having been assigned to the Investigative Division. Detective Sergeant Vitale is currently assigned to the Professional Standards Unit.



Eugene Perrotta is shown in the top photo being sworn in as sergeant. Sergeant Perrotta was assigned to the Patrol Division as a night supervisor. The second photo shows Sergeant Perrotta with his wife and parents.



Detective Sergeant Vitale is shown above with his wife and children.



# 2011 In Review

## Cranford Police Department Promotions



Joseph Van Bergen was promoted to the rank of Captain after having served as the Traffic Division commander at the rank of Detective Lieutenant. Captain Van Bergen is now assigned to the Administrative Office of the Chief of Police.

Photos below show Captain Van Bergen and his wife and children after the ceremony.



Edward Davenport was promoted to the rank of Detective Lieutenant after having been assigned as a supervisor in the Patrol Division. Detective Lieutenant Davenport is now in command of the Traffic Division.

He is shown above with his family at the promotional ceremony on February 8th.





# 2011 In Review

## Cranford Police Department 2011 Events

### Public Safety Day

On April 14th the police department took part in the annual Public Safety Day on Holly Street. The event is held each year to offer students from the Calvary Nursery School and Helen K. Baldwin Nursery School a chance to meet officers and test out police, fire, and EMS equipment.



### Torch Run 2011

The Cranford Policemen's Benevolent Association Local #52 took part in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics on June 10th. In the **photo below**, *left to right*, Cranford Police Officers Joe Stulpin, Matt Nazzaro, Brian Thomas, Eugene Perrotta, Guy Patterson, Tom Bell, Bobby Jordan, Steve D'Ambola, Derek Farbanec, and Bill Pietrucha.



# 2011 In Review

## Cranford Police Department 2011 Events

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### Police Handle Calls for an Earthquake, Bear, and Coyote



Though the last part of 2011 was dominated by the recovery efforts from the worst flood in Cranford history, July and August also accounted for some new call types.

On July 19th we received calls from the Garwood and Westfield Police Departments reporting that they had been tracking a bear in their jurisdictions near our border. The bear eventually wandered into Cranford and was followed by our officers. The bear eventually ended up resting in an oak tree at the corner of Orchard Street and Estelle Place. The New Jersey Division of Wildlife Management responded and assisted in securing the bear utilizing tranquilizers. After catching the falling bear in a net, it was determined to be a one year old bear cub weighing approximately 160 pounds.

The Wildlife officers then transported the bear to Morris County to be released.

After several coyote sightings over the summer, on August 5th police received a call from a Mitchell Place resident stating a coyote was lying in the street. Upon arrival police units found a sick coyote and contacted the New Jersey Division of Wildlife Management and was told the best way to handle a sick coyote was to put it down. A member of our Firearms Unit dispatched the animal with a single shot and it's remains were safely disposed of.

On August 23rd at about 1:51 p.m. Central Communications at Police Headquarters began receiving calls from residents concerned they felt an earthquake. It was determined that Cranford was feeling the affects of a 5.9 magnitude earthquake with an epicenter 44 miles northwest of Richmond, Virginia. Other than a few alarm activations there were no damages or problems in town due to the quake.

**Photos** show the bear and net used to catch him.





# 2011 In Review

## Cranford Police Department 2011 Events



### National Night Out

The police department took part in the 28th Annual National Night Out on August 2nd from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Gazebo located at the corner of North Union and Springfield Avenues. This free event is designed to promote crime prevention awareness and allows the public to interact with members of the police department to obtain information about our programs. In addition to emergency vehicle displays, there was a DJ, face painter, magician, and more.

For the third year in a row, a blood drive was held during National Night Out. This year's drive was in memory of Lakewood Police officer Christopher Matlosz. Members of Cranford PBA #52 were present and handed out free Italian ices to all in attendance.



# 2011 In Review

## Cranford Police Department 2011 Events

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### Wilde Graduates FBI National Academy



Lieutenant Stephen Wilde of the Cranford Police Department was one of 255 law enforcement officers who graduated from the FBI National Academy at Quantico, Virginia. Wilde was part of the 246th Session of the National Academy, which consisted of men and women from 46 states, the District of Columbia, 28 foreign countries, and three military organizations. Internationally known for academic excellence, the 10 week academy program offers undergraduate and graduate level courses in law, behavioral sciences, forensic science, leadership development, communications, and health and fitness training for competitively selected officers who have a proven record of professionalism in their agencies. FBI Academy instructors, special agents, and other staff members who are recognized as experts in their fields provide training for the program.

Wilde is a 24 year veteran of the Cranford Police Department. During his tenure, he has served in the Patrol Division and Investigative Division. He became a Detective in 1993, was promoted to Sergeant in 1995, and Lieutenant in 1998. He previously commanded the Investigative Division and currently serves as a watch commander in the Patrol Division.

Following Wilde's graduation from the FBI National Academy, Cranford Police Chief Eric Mason said, "Lieutenant Wilde's graduation from the FBI National Academy represents his pursuit of excellence and professionalism in his chosen career of law enforcement."

Lieutenant Wilde joins Chief Mason and Lieutenant Colaneri as the only three active members of the department who have attended the FBI National Academy. Since its founding in 1935, only six members of the department have been selected to attend the National Academy. Former members of the department who graduated from the program are Captain Ralph Koury, Lieutenant Lawrence Bonnell, and Detective Sergeant Michael Dean.



### PBA Donates Bicycle

On May 5<sup>th</sup> the Cranford P.B.A. presented Michael Pfahler with a new bike to replace the one he had stolen in April. "Mikey" is a lifelong resident and special needs adult. He is known to ride his trademark bike fitted with cup holder and radio throughout the downtown. The PBA voted to replace his bike with all the special options he was used to. The Cranford Bike Shop also helped make this happen for Mikey.

**Photo, left to right,** PBA members D'Ambola, Polito, Stulpin, Swandrak, Nazzaro, "Mikey," Baer, Andrews, Mason, Van Bergen, and Davenport with Mikey's new bicycle.



# 2011 In Review

## Cranford Police Department 2011 Events

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### Expanded Use of Social Media Implemented

Despite a very successful implementation of the Nixle Alert System in August, 2010, we announced in April that we were ending our use of Nixle due to a business decision by Nixle to change our free service to a paid service at a cost of \$3,000 - \$5,000 per year. We felt this cost was not in the best interest of the taxpayers.

Due to the loss of the Nixle Alert System we immediately created Facebook and Twitter accounts in April. These additional options have increased our ability to get important, timely information to the community.

In August the Cranford Police Department was pleased to announce the re-implementation of the Nixle Alert System. We were notified that Nixle had changed their decision regarding costs and was again offering public safety agencies the full use of the Nixle Alert System at no cost.

The reimplementation of the Nixle Alert System could not have come at a more critical time. When the township was struck by Hurricane Irene in August we used Nixle and our social media accounts before the storm to prepare our

residents and issue a mandatory evacuation. After the storm we used it to assist in the recovery efforts; however, most importantly we used it during the storm when the police department was evacuated and phone service lost. We were able to get the word out to thousands of citizens despite being displaced from our building. Facebook even allowed us two way communication with citizens, both near and far.

The Facebook, Twitter, and Nixle accounts are all used by the department and compliment our web site. The choice of notification systems also give subscribers a multitude of options of how they want to be notified. These include viewing a webpage, text message, and/or email.



Nixle notifications can be viewed online at: <http://local.nixle.com/cranford-police-department>



Twitter notifications can be viewed online at: <https://twitter.com/CranfordPD>



Facebook notifications can be viewed online at: <http://www.facebook.com/CranfordPD>



### Santa Deliveries Continue

The twelfth annual Santa Home Deliveries almost didn't happen this year due to the flood waters of Hurricane Irene; however the Cranford Jaycees stepped in to assist the PBA in continuing this great program. With the help of the Jaycees, Fire Department, and PBA we delivered over 200 gifts to about 100 homes. Collected toys were donated to the Overlook Hospital Pediatric Unit, Holy Redeemer DYFS Outreach, and the US Marine Corps. Toys for Tots boxes at the Cranford Fire Department. Santa's helpers are shown at left before a busy night

# 2011 In Review

## Cranford Police Department 2011 Events



### Farewell Staff Meeting

After 35 years of service with the Cranford Police Department Captain John C. Baer retired on October 31, 2011. The photo above was taken at his last staff meeting where he enjoyed a cake and farewell from his fellow officers.

Captain Baer began his Cranford Police Department career in July 1976 as a police dispatcher before being hired as a Patrolman in September 1979.

During his career, Baer served in the Patrol Division, was the commander of the Traffic Division, and in 2003 was promoted to Captain of Administration. In 2011, he was placed in charge of Operations and served in that capacity until his retirement.

In 1987, then Patrolman John Baer was a recipient of the Cranford Police Department Medal of Honor and the Union County 200 Club Valor Award for his heroic efforts at the scene of a home explosion on Nomahegan Court.

Captain Baer was also a past recipient of the Chamber of Commerce Pride in Cranford Award and numerous Departmental Citations and Commendations.

### PBA Silver Card Dinner

The Cranford PBA held their annual Silver Card Dinner on November 10<sup>th</sup> where they presented Honorary PBA Memberships to Gerry Grillo and Jeff Scotti for their efforts in assisting the men and women of the Cranford PBA after the flooding of the police department.

Due to the flood, officers had no place to eat or take breaks. The downtown food businesses were either flooded or without power and many officers own homes were flooded as well.

Gerry Grillo and Jeff Scotti organized a rehabilitation tent including food and drinks on the front lawn of town hall for over a week.

**Photo below, left to right,** PBA President Matthew Nazzaro, Gerry Grillo, Jeff Scotti, PBA Delegate Robert Montague, and PBA Vice President Joseph Stulpin at the Garlic Rose for the Silver Card Dinner Ceremony.



# 2011 In Review

## Cranford Police Department—Hurricane Irene

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### Hurricane Irene



On August 28, 2011, Hurricane Irene made landfall in southern New Jersey, tracking north and passing over the majority of the state, including Union County. Despite several days advanced warning, and intense planning efforts by Township Officials and Emergency Management personnel, the storm devastated considerable portions of Cranford Township and resulted in major flooding from the Rahway River. The storm resulted in 9.7" of rain in 24 hours. In addition, we saw 18.93" of rain in all of August which made it the wettest month on record with the National Weather Service.

In preparation for Irene's arrival, the Township ordered a mandatory evacuation for homes in the 500 year flood plain. Over 2,000 people were evacuated and an emergency shelter was opened at the Cranford Community Center on Walnut Avenue. Despite the evacuation order, the Cranford Police Department Water Rescue Team, as well as units from the fire department, county police and New Jersey State Police, conducted over 100 rescues of stranded and trapped residents.

At the peak of flooding, the Rahway River reached 4.5 feet above flood stage, pouring water onto surface streets and into numerous residences. In all, over 1,300 homes experienced significant flood damage and over 200 experienced first floor flooding. A combination of flooding and high wind also caused the loss of power to over 6,000 residences and businesses; power was not restored to all the affected areas for over five days. In the Rahway River Watershed area (of which Cranford is part), the Federal Emergency Management Agency estimated the value of damage to homes, schools and municipal property at over \$60 million.



**Photo, top,** South Avenue at High Street.

**Photo, middle,** Route 28 at Springfield Avenue.

**Photo, bottom,** rear of Town Hall at 9:53 a.m. on Sunday, August 28, 2011.



# 2011 In Review

## Cranford Police Department—Hurricane Irene



In addition to local homes and businesses, the flooding also impacted the Cranford Municipal Building causing the first floor of the building to be abandoned with over 3 feet of standing water and sewage. The Cranford Police Department was forced to evacuate in the middle of the storm and operate for several days from a mobile command post provided by the Union County Office of Emergency Management. Estimates to repair the government facility topped \$2 million and repairs are expected to take about a year to complete.



Within hours of the storm's passage, recovery and remediation efforts began in earnest. The

American Red Cross provided volunteer help and cleaning supplies. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Small Business Administration were on site to conduct damage assessments and assist with financial loans and grants to affected parties. Cranford Public Works personnel, assisted by outside haulers and Union County agencies, began the months long task of clearing debris. Municipal business was conducted from temporary trailers and extra police patrols were deployed to deter scavengers and other criminals from targeting the flood impacted areas.



Along the east coast of the United States, Hurricane Irene was projected to be responsible for over \$1 billion in damage costs. Locally, the storm was assessed as one of the worst storms in Cranford history.

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**Photo, top,** Cranford First Aid Squad during flood.

**Photo, middle,** Cranford Fire Department was used to temporarily house the Cranford First Aid Squad after the loss of their building.

**Photo, bottom,** High Water Vehicles from the United States Army used for water rescue operations.

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# 2011 In Review

## Cranford Police Department—Hurricane Irene



**Photos.** Clockwise from top left,

1. New Jersey Task Force 1 Urban Search & Rescue personnel prepare for rescue;
2. Food and cleaning kits distributed to residents;
3. American Red Cross Disaster Relief;
4. Volunteers load trucks to distribute relief supplies;
5. South Avenue flooding;
6. Command Post;
7. Central Communications the morning Irene hit Cranford.



# 2011 In Review

## Cranford Police Department—Hurricane Irene



**Photos**, counter clockwise from top left column,

1. Brookside Place School after the storm,
2. The Mill at Lincoln Avenue and High Street,
3. Intersection of South Avenue and Centennial Avenue looking from NJ Transit bridge,
4. Communications Officer Ed Matusawicz, Patrolman Matt Nazzaro, and Detective Sergeant Chris Polito working in the command post,
5. Patrolman John Colineri, Patrolman Sean Holcomb, and Auxiliary Philip Andrews at Springfield Avenue and North Union Avenue.



**Photo Above**, The Cranford Jaycees donated two bullet proof vests to the Cranford Police Department to replace vests lost in the flooding of town hall during Hurricane Irene. *Left to right*: Andis Kalnins, Cranford Jaycees; Patrolman Matthew Nazzaro, President Cranford PBA Local #52; Jeff Sterling, Cranford Jaycees President; Eric G. Mason, Chief of Police.

# Days Gone By

## Historical Perspective of the Cranford Police Department

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**Above,** Normandie Place and Claremont Place during flood in June 1973.



# Days Gone By

## Historical Perspective of the Cranford Police Department

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**Above,** photos of flooding from November 8, 1977.



# Days Gone By

## Historical Perspective of the Cranford Police Department

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**Above,** between 1973 and 1978 serious flooding continued to plague the Township of Cranford. The Cranford Police Department Mobile Command Post vehicle was usually stationed at the intersection of Normandie Place and Claremont Place during each emergency situation. Photos taken June 30, 1973.