

# The Gazette

Carlstadt • East Rutherford • Hasbrouck Heights • Little Ferry • Lodi • Moonachie  
Rutherford • South Hackensack • Teterboro • Wallington • Wood-Ridge

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VOL. 18, No. 12 December 2021 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



## Embrace The Spirit

Before the endless shopping, social and family obligations, excessive gift giving, festivities and overwhelming pressure of the hectic holiday craziness -- Slow down. Pause. Stop. The magic is in the season. Enjoy living the moment, if only for this special time. Spend quality time with family and friends. Gather around the tree and find an heirloom ornament and share its story while listening to Christmas music. Appreciate the artful decorations everywhere. Savor the flavor of holiday baking and tasteful culinary delights. Send a holiday card with a note to an old friend. Kiss your sweetheart under the mistletoe. Visit a neighbor. Smile while offering holiday greetings to strangers. Be generous in thought, word and deed. Delight in sharing your joy with others. The spirit of the season is in you!

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**Merry  
Christmas**



## Pride in Priest Dinner

On Tuesday, October 19, 2021 -- the Knights of Columbus held their annual "Pride in Priest" Dinner. Here are several of the Councils. *Photos provided by Angelo Urato. ###*



Council #7041 Msgr. Robert Fitzpatrick, Hasbrouck Heights



Council #1490 St. Francis of Assisi, East Rutherford



Council #1497 St. Anthony, Wood-Ridge



Council #1688, Regina, Rutherford



Council #1688, Regina, Rutherford



## Woman's Club of Carlstadt Installation

The Woman's Club of Carlstadt installed their 2021-2022 officers on October 5, 2021. From left Rosalie Bepalko, Corresponding Secretary; Louise Newsbaum, President; Jill Hediger, Vice President; Carolyn Daniele, Treasurer, Carol Ann Dalessandro, Recording Secretary and Janet Drogo, Federation Secretary. *Provided by Janet Drogo. ###*

*December 15, 2021 – January 1, 2022 • Holidays*  
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# BE WELL





## Your Fire Chiefs Offer These Christmas Tree Safety Tips

- Any string of lights with worn, frayed or broken cords or loose bulb connections should not be used. Connect no more than three strands of push-in bulbs and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Never connect more than one extension cord together.
- Always unplug Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- Never use lit candles to decorate a tree, and make sure any lit candles in the room are placed away from tree branches.
- If using a live tree, be sure it is fresh (*it isn't already losing needles*) and has a new, clean cut on the bottom of the trunk before putting up.
- Keep live trees away from heat sources. Hydrate your tree. Check the water level daily. Cut one inch off the trunk to help absorb water. Leave the tree outside until ready to decorate.
- If using an artificial tree, be sure its label reads "Fire Resistant."



### A CHRISTMAS COCKTAIL EXPERIENCE

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Vicki Costa and Leisure Club President June Raymond

## Hasbrouck Heights Seniors Enjoy Annual Turkey Dinner

On November 10, 2021, over 100 members of the Hasbrouck Heights Leisure Club, gathered for the 10th Thanksgiving Luncheon sponsored by The Costa Family/Costa Funeral Home. The Costa Family paid for this event in its entirety. This luncheon was prepared and served by The Market Basket of Wyckoff.

The varied menu consisted of turkey, which was moist and tender, the trimmings were stuffing, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, string beans, glazed carrots, cranberry sauce, salad and rolls. To complete the delicious meal, cake, coffee and tea was served.

President June Raymond thanked Vicki Costa and her family for their generosity on behalf of the Leisure Club and local seniors for this great luncheon. *File photo. Story by Gladys Gamble. ###*

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Civil War Roundtable Holiday Dinner December 4

The Phil Kearny Annual Holiday Dinner is Saturday, December 4, 2021, at 4 p.m., at the Bistro 107 Cucina Italiana, 107 Moonachie Road, Moonachie, New Jersey.

Special guest speaker: renowned Civil War author, historian, lecturer, Battlefield Tour Guide & Battlefield Preservationist, Eric J. Wittenberg. His award winning published works have focused primarily on the cavalrymen and cavalry battles of the Civil War.

Cost is \$45 per person. For reservations, send check to: Phil Kearny Civil War Roundtable (PKCWRT), C/O Norm Dykstra, 77 Walray Avenue, North Haledon, New Jersey 07508. Email: Normandy1@verizon.net Phone is 973-423-3423.

Questions? Contact Dennis Buttacavoli email at: Denance@aol.com and phone is 201-288-8812. ###

Kip Holiday Open House

55 Kip Center in Rutherford will host its Annual Open House, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Saturday, November 27, 2021, with a craft fair, holiday boutique, bake shop, raffle sales for their Festival of Trees and Wreaths, and raffle sales for a handmade quilt. Refreshments available. For more information, call 201-460-1600. ###

Christmas trees are known to have been popular in Germany as far back as the sixteenth century. In England, they became popular after Queen Victoria's husband, Albert, who came from Germany, made a tree part of the celebrations at Windsor Castle. In the United States, the earliest known mention of a Christmas tree is in the diary of a German who settled in Pennsylvania. ###

First Reformed Church Annual Roast Beef Dinner

On November 6, 2021, the Women's Guild of The First Reformed Church in Hasbrouck Heights held their famous Roast Beef dinner.

This was an annual event, but because of Covid-19, everything came to a standstill. The last roast beef dinner held was November 2019.

The Women's Guild did a fabulous job preparing this delicious homemade feast; they did all the shopping and

cooking, not to mention the many hours spent preparing in the kitchen! A labor of love for sure.

The menu consisted of delicious roast beef, cooked to perfection, mashed potatoes (2 kinds), glazed carrots, and hot, delicious gravy. All this ended with homemade cake, blueberries and strawberries, topped with whipped cream, coffee and tea. *Provided by Gladys Gamble. ###*

Thriving Beyond the Pandemic: Arts in Triumph

Here is the Challenge: submit a performing arts or applied arts piece that expresses how you felt or coped, or what you experienced during the Pandemic.

Whether in response to volunteering, to someone being ill, to you being isolated, or to remote learning – from a single voice or brush stroke, to a dance or a poem – ARTS Today in NJ would like to showcase your artistic expression.

Submissions should be sent to Care on the Corner by December 31, 2021. This program is open to all students through high school. This project is being mentored by Jennifer Ashline and Thareesa Saekoo.

Jen has a Master of Arts degree with a high concentration in Popular Culture. She has also developed a program for Sunday School which teaches children about the Bible through film and television.

Thareesa has a Bachelor's Degree in Film and Video Studies from George Mason University and has a true passion for the arts with a focus on film and photography. She is hoping to start her own company soon and is excited to be part of ARTS Today in NJ.

For more information on how to create your video, call the Care Center at 201-288-9460. ###

Little Ferry Coat Drive

New Jersey Cares Coat Drive will be held until December 28, 2021.

Drop off new and gently used coats to Little Ferry Borough Hall, 215-217 Liberty Street, Little Ferry. A drop off box is near the main entrance in the lobby. ###

Practice Random Acts of Kindness

December Birthstone Turquoise

Aviation Books For Sale

Large collection of approx. 400 Aviation books for sale. Time periods from WW II to modern aircraft. Cash only for this auctioned collection. Call John at 973.423.2855.

Friday Night Dancing

The Hasbrouck Heights Elks Lodge 1962 will host dancing every Friday night from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. with DJ Gerri. Cost is \$10 at the door. Coffee included. Cash bar. For more information, call Cathy at 386-852-4881. ###

**NOW OPEN Aviation Museum**

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## Park Avenue Toastmasters

Looking to develop speaking and leadership skills? Ace a job interview? Ignite your career? Toastmasters International is a world leader in communication and leadership development. The Park Avenue Toastmasters will meet at the Wood-Ridge Memorial Library and also on Zoom on Mondays, December 6 and 20, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. Vaccinations required for in person meetings. ###

**KEYWORLD**



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## MomLife Event December 16

MomLife is for YOU! Whether you are a working, stay-at-home, single or married mom, resolve to get to MomLife this month!!

Moms of kids ages 0-11 from any town are welcome to attend. We ask those who are unvaccinated to wear a mask and social distancing guidelines followed.

Next event on Thursday, December 16, 2021, 7 to 9 p.m. Please RSVP by December 14.

Event hosted by **Bible Baptist Church**, 31 Passaic Avenue, Hasbrouck Heights.

Limited KidLife childcare available by RSVP only and medical form required. Monthly Friday morning get together and outings too.

For more info: hasbrouckhtsmomlife@gmail.com; 862-239-6677; Fb – Hasbrouck Heights MomLife ###



**Deadline for the  
January Gazette  
is December 5th**

## MSH Cash Raffle Dec. 4

The Rosary Confraternity of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 127 Paterson Avenue, Wallington, is sponsoring a “St. Nicholas Surprise Cash Raffle.”

As St. Nicholas makes his annual visit to Most Sacred Heart on Saturday, December 4, 2021 after the 5 p.m. Mass, he will be pulling the winning tickets. The 1st prize is 25% of the proceeds of the ticket sales, 2nd prize is 15% of the proceeds and 3rd prize is 10% of the proceeds. All tickets are sold for a \$5 donation.

Tickets are on sale now. Tickets are available at the Rectory during regular business hours or from Rosary Confraternity members.

Checks are to be made payable to MSH Rosary Confraternity. Please place your check or cash with the com-

pleted ticket stub in an envelope marked Rosary Confraternity Raffle. All returns can be placed in the Sunday collection basket or dropped in the mailbox outside of the rectory. Please return all ticket stubs and money by Thursday, December 2, 2021.

All proceeds of this raffle will be utilized to support the activities of the MSH Rosary Confraternity and MSH Parish.

If you have any questions, please contact MaryJane at 201-939-8576. ###

## Lodi KC Pancake Breakfast Dec. 12

The St. Michael's Council of the Knights of Columbus are having their monthly buffet-style Family Breakfast on Sunday, December 12, 2021, 8:30 a.m. to noon, at 39 Washington Street, Lodi.

Menu includes: all-you-can-eat fresh scrambled eggs, pancakes, French toast (*to order*), bacon, sausage, hash browns, fresh rolls, orange juice, fresh hot coffee, and tea.

Adults: \$8; children over 6: \$4; children 6 and under: free. Profits to benefit local charities. ###

## Free Lunch Saturday

Everyone is invited to the First Presbyterian Church of Moonachie for the “Free Lunch Saturday” program, which will be held on December 4, 2021, at 11:30 a.m. This hot lunch features “Pork Roast.” This will be a “to-go” event. No sit down table service.

This program is an expansion of the Church's ministry of feeding hungry bodies and hungry hearts. If the economy's got you down, or you want to share a meal with others, come for the food and fellowship. There are no strings attached. A free-will offering is taken. ###

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## Annual Fundraising Spectacular December 11

The Rotary Club of Fort Lee presents their Annual Fundraising Spectacular on December 11, 2021, starting at 6:30 p.m., at the Fort Lee Recreation Center, 1500 8th Street (*bottom of Stillwell Avenue*), Fort Lee.

Cost is \$60 pp and includes food, dancing, DJ and a 50/50 raffle.

There will be a silent auction featuring diamond earrings, vacation giveaway, gift cards, gift baskets, etc.

Join in congratulating the 2021 Honoree, John Koch. John is chair of the Fort Lee Gift of Life program as well as the longest serving Rotarian in our district with 58 years of service.

Make checks payable to the Fort Lee Rotary Charity, Inc. c/o Vin Dryer, One Towne Center Drive, Apt. 418, Cliffside Park, NJ 07010 ###

## Carlstadt Mixed Chorus

The Carlstadt Turnverein invites you to their New Year's Eve program on December 31, 2021, from 4 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$65 pp all inclusive. Music by Bud and Linda. For reservations call 973-777-6677 or 973-204-9933.

Love Music and Singing and socializing with like-minded individuals ?

The Carlstadt Mixed Chorus may be the place for you. We are celebrating our 90th Anniversary in 2021 and are seeking new members to keep the tradition vibrant.

Our repertoire includes songs with German and English lyrics and ranges from Mozart, Beethoven, Strauss, to evergreens and Broadway tunes.

We meet once a week, Wednesdays, from 3:30 to 5 p.m., to rehearse and socialize afterwards.

If interested, please email Ingrid at: ingridwehrhahn11@gmail.com or call: 201-391-8765, eves preferred.

We'd love to hear from you and have you join us. ###

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# Let's Go Traveling!

By Rick Ardis

## Holiday Travel

Traditionally, travel during the Christmas Holiday Season was mostly to visit with family and friends. This sentiment was immortalized in song with the 1954 hit by Perry Como, "There's No Place Like Home For The Holidays."

This attitude is also expressed in other songs and movies of previous decades. For the Baby-Boomer Generation, families were much more likely to gather at the home of the family matriarch (*or one of her children*). For years, our Christmas Eve would see 25 to 30 in attendance.

Christmas was normally a slack period for warm weather destinations and mountain ski resorts. New Year's Eve had been the start of the winter high season when business would increase.

But recently as relatives have become more scattered, attitudes regarding large family gatherings have changed. This philosophical adjustment has led to Christmas and Hannukah becoming a peak vacation time.

To be inclusive, the travel and hospitality industries increasingly use the term "Festive" for the holiday period. Vacations during Festive can include religious elements or be completely secular. Pilgrimages to Bethlehem or Rome are often celebratory destinations for Christians.

Even before Christmas there are travel opportunities for special trips. Throughout Europe there are Christmas Markets during Advent in main squares of large cities and small villages. While penning this column, I am preparing for my first Christmas Markets Cruise from Nuremberg to Vienna.

Although most closely associated with Germany, these celebrations can be found across the European continent, as well as Great Britain and Ireland. There are even opportunities to visit markets here at home.

Another vacation opportunity at the end the calendar is New Year's Eve of Las Vegas is one of the more popular locales for a New Year's Celebration.

There are countless choices for merry making on December 31st. Live performances are bountiful. Dance parties with entertainment abound, including a blocks-long event

at the Fremont Street Experience in downtown Las Vegas. This is one of the more popular locales for New Year's celebrations. The original 1960 film "Ocean's 11," starring Frank Sinatra and the Rat Pack, was set in Las Vegas during this period.

Generally speaking, it is best to plan your holiday getaway at least 6 months in advance. Popular options are cruises and all-inclusive resorts in the Caribbean or Mexico. Ski resorts in Europe's Alps and the Rocky Mountains are also sought-after destinations. While choices may be limited and priced considerably higher than at other times, there may still be opportunities to book now.

For those traveling during the holidays, preparation is key especially with small children. Airports and aircraft are generally crowded.

Snacks, along with things to pass the time for adults and children should be in your carry-on bag. Important documents and medications should never be in checked baggage. Extra time should always be budgeted. Lines can be long for check-in, for security and at attractions. Patience is key to minimizing stress during travel. Mobile phone apps help travelers to keep in touch with their airline and family in the event of changes or delays.

While the Covid-19 conditions continue, protocols remain continually fluid. Double and triple checking the requirements in effect for your intended destination is imperative. Requirements for returning to the United States from foreign lands are also subject to change. Now more than ever, travel insurance is an important part of your holiday plans. This coverage can protect you during unexpected occurrences during your journey.

Whether you are celebrating at home, travelling to visit family, on a pilgrimage, or relaxing on vacation; Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, Joyous Kwanzaa and a Prosperous and Healthy 2022 to all. ###

Rick Ardis is the owner of Ardis Travel -- established in 1981. 201-939-9135 • www.ardistravel.com • rick@ardistravel.com ###

Yield to Pedestrians

# Holiday "Road Trip" Tips

## Suggestions for Safe Holiday Travel.

- Before leaving, be sure to secure your house. Lock all doors and windows, and don't forget to set the alarm.
- Also, give your home that lived-in look to repel potential burglars by having a friend collect your mail, setting lights on timers and not leaving details of your trip on the answering machine.
- Don't leave valuables in your car. Pack all items, especially brightly wrapped packages, in the trunk. If afraid of squashed bows, wait until you arrive to wrap the gifts.
- One tip for packing lighter is to ship your gifts to your destination ahead of time. Allow at least two to three weeks for your package to arrive, for the holidays are hectic times for courier services like UPS and Federal Express.

## Plan Ahead

Holiday travelers are at a higher risk for accidents. Avoid peak travel days.

People leave on long trips on the last workday before the holiday to visit family and friends in what can be a stressful time – increasing the potential for fatigue.

- Plan enough travel time for your trip to include breaks.
- Plan your route before you leave and take along a map or GPS so you are prepared if you need to take a detour or alternate route due to road conditions or accidents.
- Travel information Web sites and 5-1-1 telephone services provide estimated travel times, road and weather conditions, accident reports and other helpful information.
- Don't leave on a long trip after eating a large meal. Never drink and drive.

## Drive Safely

- Buckle up and use child safety seats properly.
- Once on the road, drive carefully, patiently and stifle road rage. Indicate lane changes and give everyone plenty

*The poem commonly referred to as "The Night Before Christmas" was originally titled "A Visit From Saint Nicholas." This poem was written by Clement Moore for his children and some guests, one of whom anonymously sent the poem to a New York newspaper for publication. ###*

*The popular Christmas song "Jingle Bells" was composed in 1857 by James Pierpont, and was originally called "One-Horse Open Sleigh." ###*

of room. Be forgiving when someone drives recklessly.

- Don't text or use your cell phone when driving.
- Obey speed limits.
- Don't tailgate. Be patient.
- Stay alert and minimize distractions.
- Avoid sudden stops and starts. Slow down when driving on snowy or icy roads where stopping distances are much longer. Leave more distance between your vehicle and the one ahead.
- Overall, try to make driving fun, and view it as part of the holiday, not as a chore. If traveling with children, get everyone involved by singing or reminiscing about favorite past holidays. The ride will be over before you know it, and you'll actually look forward to the drive back home. ###

# Rutherford Food Pantry

The Pantry is located in the basement of Rutherford Borough Hall. It is a volunteer non-profit which is a joint effort of community faith congregations, organizations and concerned citizens. Call 201-460-3000 x3168 to volunteer. Food donations are welcome during hours of service. Recipient eligibility is determined by local pastors and social services. A completed and approved referral is required. Limitations apply. For more information go to: [www.rutherford-nj.com/pantry](http://www.rutherford-nj.com/pantry) ###

*There are twelve courses in the Ukrainian Christmas Eve supper. According to the Christian tradition, each course is dedicated to one of Christ's apostles. ###*

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## Artful Thinking

By Artie Maglionico • Lodi Historian

### Artful December 2021

Well, dear friends, we made it to Christmas '21. Last year at this time Christmas, as we have come to know and love, was difficult to find. We had to look through the dark cloud of the pandemic and try to find our way to the divine light of our Savior's birth.

Like the three kings of orient, we didn't relent until we found the infant Jesus waiting for us beneath the star of wonder. Then we fell to our knees and shouted out to the universe "Merry Christmas to all." I'm going to say it again...Merry Christmas! I'm as happy as a Christmas elf to be able to spend a part of this holiday season with all of you; The Artful

### Thinking Family.

I'm sure that you will agree with me when I say that the wonderful season of Christmas brings with it brightly colored packages filled with sentimental memories.

My cousin, Linda Costa, yes folks, another relative, remembers waking up at four in the morning on Christmas Eve to assist our Grandma Pesenti in the making of homemade, both meat and cheese, raviolis.

There in the dimly lit cellar of our Grandma's home gastronomic delights were being created in honor of our Savior's birth.

Linda's job was to separate the raviolis using a small roller with a serrated edge. The finishing touches, as it were, to a perfectly formed square each one created with one thing in mind and that of course was to bring joy to all those family members who would soon gather around that long table and savor them. Savor them we did.

Linda also recalls helping our Grandma make Christmas tree decorations out of coffee can tops. In those days, early

50s perhaps, coffee cans came with a key one had to crank around the top of the can in order to open it.

What was left were these long strands of aluminum which were somehow transformed into Christmas ornaments including tinsel. Grandma Pesenti and Linda were a Christmas Eve team of endless possibilities.

My friend, Emily Abramenco, Youth Services Librarian at the Lodi Library, recalls the days leading up to Christmas staying up to the wee hours baking trays of cookies with her Mother and Grandmother.

Come Christmas Eve many of those delicious home baked cookies were given away as gifts. Emily continues that Christmas tradition with her own children. Merry Christmas Emily. I wouldn't mind if you sent a few of those cookies my way.

Of course a story about Christmas memories would not be complete without hearing from the person who, for many years, was responsible for bringing Christmas to the Borough of Lodi. You guessed it folks, the recently retired Superintendent of Recreation for the last 40 years, Anna Belli.

Anna recalls teaming up with Recreation Director Vince Nocito and his fellow board members Roger Caparoso, Frank Triola, Steve Loiacono, and Al Perrella, who later became Anna's assistant. Together they built a Christmas

float that would taxi both Santa Claus and some of the children up and down the festive streets of the community.

That's when Christmas in Lodi officially began. Years later Anna recalls Landing with Santa (*Vince Nocito*) at Kennedy Park in, no folks not in a Reindeer driven sleigh, but in a whirling helicopter.

Once on terra firma, Anna and Santa began handing out gifts to the awestruck children.

Soon the Holiday tradition moved into the Middle school auditorium. There the children would enjoy a show put on by magicians, carolers, and of course, a visit from the jolly old elf himself Vince Nocito... rather Santa Claus.

After Vince's passing in 1985, Anna took over as Superintendent of Lodi Recreation.

By then Anna began partnering with then Library Director Anthony Taormina and soon was formed the official Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

The event became a community celebration not only for children but for the entire family. The night's festivities included refreshments, speeches by town officials, entertainment provided by the Lodi High School Choir and Band, the arrival of Mr. And Mrs. Claus by way of a fire truck and the lighting of the Lodi Christmas Tree.

Anna has been a part and parcel of the Christmas Comes to Lodi theme since her early

beginnings with Vince Nocito. Since then Anna has nurtured the idea and has helped the event to grow into the successful and much anticipated holiday gathering that it has become for the entire community. Hey Anna, thanks for the memories and Merry Christmas.

Well folks that about does it for this year 2021. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy and healthy New Year. I know that life has not been easy for many of us over these last few months but with the arrival of Christmas comes the promise of Peace, Joy and Love.

Love for our families, The love for one another, the love for ourselves, the love and gratitude for our police force and for those in the military. The love for our USA and the love for God almighty. We have it within our power to make this the greatest Christmas ever.

I'll see you next year. ###

*On Sunday October 17, 2021, during Lodi's annual Fall Festival, the field at Memorial Park was dedicated to former Director of Recreation Ms. Anna Belli. Anna enjoyed over 40 plus years of dedicated community service and is loved and respected by all who are fortunate enough to have been on the receiving end of her positive energy. And there are many. Congratulations, Anna, we are all proud of you. ###*



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The Longest Night Service

Pastor Debbie Rundecker, of First Reformed Church, Hasbrouck Heights, offers "The Longest Night" service, which is a special time of gathering for those who find the season of Advent and Christmas a difficult time.

It is a somber and quiet time of worship, a time to acknowledge our pain and draw comfort and strength from the One who calls us from our darkest nights into the dawn.

First Reformed Church is at the corner of Burton Avenue and Washington Place. All are welcome. Bring a family member or friend who may be in need of God's comfort even while trying to celebrate the holidays, December 21, 2021, at 7 p.m.

For more information, call the office at 201-288-1122 or Pastor Debbie at 973-600-5848. ###


Rosary Altar Society Christmas Brunch December 12

The Rosary Altar Society of St. Joseph's Church, East Rutherford, will be having a Christmas Brunch at Al Di La East Rutherford, on December 12, 2021, after the 10 a.m. Mass. Cost \$28. Contact Lorraine at 201-906-5297.

We recently finished a successful Christmas Wreath Sale. We look forward to continuing serving our Parish as we have for the past 100 years. ###

Winter begins with the Winter Solstice, Tuesday December 21, 2021 10:59 a.m.

Pray for Peace



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# "Mankind was my business."

*Except from "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens*

'You must have been very slow about it, Jacob,' Scrooge observed, in a business-like manner, though with humility and deference.

'Slow!' the Ghost repeated.

'Seven years dead,' mused Scrooge. 'And travelling all the time!'

'The whole time,' said the Ghost. 'No rest, no peace. Incessant torture of remorse.'

'You travel fast?' said Scrooge.

'On the wings of the wind,' replied the Ghost.

'You might have got over a great quantity of ground in seven years,' said Scrooge.

The Ghost, on hearing this, set up another cry, and clanked its chain so hideously in the dead silence of the night, that the Ward would have been justified in indicting it for a nuisance.

'Oh! captive, bound, and double-ironed,' cried the phantom, 'not to know, that ages of

incessant labour, by immortal creatures, for this earth must pass into eternity before the good of which it is susceptible is all developed. Not to know that any Christian spirit working kindly in its little sphere, whatever it may be, will find its mortal life too short for its vast means of usefulness. Not to know that no space of regret can make amends for one life's opportunity misused! Yet such was I! Oh! such was I!'

'But you were always a good man of business, Jacob,' faltered Scrooge, who now began to apply this to himself.

'Business!' cried the Ghost, wringing its hands again. 'Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were, all, my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!'

It held up its chain at arm's length, as if that were the cause of all its unavailing grief, and flung it heavily upon the ground

again.

'At this time of the rolling year,' the spectre said 'I suffer most. Why did I walk through crowds of fellow-beings with my eyes turned down, and never raise them to that blessed Star which led the Wise Men to a poor abode! Were there no poor homes to which its light would have conducted me!'

Scrooge was very much dismayed to hear the spectre going on at this rate, and began to quake exceedingly.

'Hear me!' cried the Ghost. 'My time is nearly gone.'

'I will,' said Scrooge. 'But don't be hard upon me! Don't be flowery, Jacob! Pray!' 'How it is that I appear before you in a shape that you can see, I may not tell. I have sat invisible beside you many and many a day.'

It was not an agreeable idea. Scrooge shivered, and wiped the perspiration from his brow.

'That is no light part of my penance,' pursued the Ghost. 'I am here to-night to warn you, that you have yet a chance and

hope of escaping my fate. A chance and hope of my procuring, Ebenezer.'

'You were always a good friend to me,' said Scrooge. 'Thank 'ee!'

'You will be haunted,' resumed the Ghost, 'by Three Spirits.'

Scrooge's countenance fell almost as low as the Ghost's had done.

'Is that the chance and hope you mentioned, Jacob?' he demanded, in a faltering voice.

'It is.'

'I -- I think I'd rather not,' said Scrooge.

'Without their visits,' said the Ghost, 'you cannot hope to shun the path I tread. Expect the first tomorrow, when the bell tolls One.'

'Couldn't I take 'em all at once, and have it over, Jacob?' hinted Scrooge.

'Expect the second on the next night at the same hour. The third upon the next night when the last stroke of Twelve has ceased to vibrate. Look to see me no more; and look that, for your own sake, you remember what has passed between us!'

When it had said these words, the spectre took its wrapper from the table, and bound it round its head, as before. Scrooge knew this, by the smart sound its teeth made, when the jaws were brought together by the bandage. He ventured to raise his eyes again, and found his supernatural visitor confronting him in an erect attitude, with its chain wound over and about its arm.

The apparition walked backward from him; and at every step it took, the window raised itself a little, so that when the spectre reached it,

it was wide open. It beckoned Scrooge to approach, which he did. When they were within two paces of each other, Marley's Ghost held up its hand, warning him to come no nearer. Scrooge stopped.

Not so much in obedience, as in surprise and fear: for on the raising of the hand, he became sensible of confused noises in the air; incoherent sounds of lamentation and regret; wailings inexpressibly sorrowful and self-accusatory. The spectre, after listening for a moment, joined in the mournful dirge; and floated out upon the bleak, dark night.

Scrooge followed to the window: desperate in his curiosity. He looked out.

The air was filled with phantoms, wandering hither and thither in restless haste, and moaning as they went. Every one of them wore chains like Marley's Ghost; some few (they might be guilty governments) were linked together; none were free. Many had been personally known to Scrooge in their lives. He had been quite familiar with one old ghost, in a white waistcoat, with a monstrous iron safe attached to its ankle, who cried piteously at being unable to assist a wretched woman with an infant, whom it saw below, upon a door-step. The misery with them all was, clearly, that they sought to interfere, for good, in human matters, and had lost the power for ever.

Whether these creatures faded into mist, or mist enshrouded them, he could not tell. But they and their spirit voices faded together; and the night became as it had been when he walked home. ###

## The NEW YORK Sun

PUBLISHED AT NEW YORK CITY

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 21ST, 1897

..

Dear Editor:

I am 8 years old. Some of my friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says "If you see it in The Sun it's so." Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon

Virginia,

Your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see.

No Santa Claus! Thank God, he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Francis P. Church, Published in The New York Sun, September 21, 1897



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## Breakfast With Santa

On Sunday, December 19, 2021, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the St. Anthony Council of the Knights of Columbus will host a "to go" Pancake Breakfast at the Fr. Patrick Morris Hall at the Assumption Church, 143 1st Street, Wood-Ridge. Masks and social distancing required.

The menu will be four pancakes and two sausages. The cost is \$5 per person. This will be a pick up only event. They will also be collecting food for the food pantry at this time.

The Council will also continue its project of decorating Valley Boulevard in Wood-Ridge with beautiful red ribbons provided by **Heights Flower Shoppe**. Residents

who make a donation of \$10 will have their names put on a ribbon. Their ribbon will be placed on either a tree or telephone pole along the Valley Boulevard. All money collected from this project will be used to purchase food for the local food pantry.

The Council is collecting winter coats during November. Place your coat in a plastic bag and place it in the bin inside the Church vestibule.

The council will again be selling "Keep Christ in Christmas" magnets in the shape of the Nativity Scene. The magnets can be purchased from any member at \$5 each or 5 for \$20. ###

## Holidays at Skylands Manor

Enjoy a Magical Holiday at the Annual Holiday Open House event sponsored by the NJBG/Skylands Association, at Skylands Manor in the NJ Botanical Gardens, Ringwood, December 2 through December 5, 2021.

The Manor will be decorated floor to ceiling for "An Artist Holiday" to celebrate the sparkle and spirit of the magical season. It's a warm and welcoming start to the holiday season with a totally different look every year! Gift Shop and Holiday Café, too.

• December 2 - December 5 (Thursday-Sunday), 10 a.m.-4 p.m. **Daytime Tours**. Enjoy a self-guided tour of the splendid decorations at your own pace. No baby strollers allowed in the Manor. Last ticket sold at 4 p.m. \$10/adults; \$8/seniors;

\$5/children 6-12; under 6 free.

• December 2 and December 3 (Thursday & Friday), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Group Tours**. Bring your group to enjoy this holiday delight together. Please call 973-962-9534 for details.

• December 3 and 4 (Friday and Saturday), 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. **Holiday Open House - Evening Reception**. The Manor will be yours for a leisurely stroll with champagne, light refreshments and valet parking. Reservations required. \$45/ members; \$50/guests and non-members. Individual, senior and student members may buy 1 ticket for any evening at the special member price. Family and other member categories may buy 2 tickets at the special member price. Tickets will be available at 973-962-9534 and online at [www.njbg.org](http://www.njbg.org). ###

## Winter Christmas Show Model Railroad Exhibits

The excitement and "Romance of Railroads," and the enjoyment of building and displaying model trains has kept the Society of Model Engineers going since 1926, making it the oldest model train group in the United States.

The members operate a train museum and two large "Railroad Empires" covering almost 5,000 square feet.

The larger "O" Scale layout is 40 by 70 feet and has almost 20 scale miles of train track, with detailed scenic diorama with realistic track work, roads, interesting structures, bridges and tunnels.

The "HO" Scale layout is approximately 30 by 45 feet. It also is fully scenic with miles of scale track. Over 50,000 miniature trees have been installed by the members to depict Northern New Jersey.

Many of the models are one

of a kind and were handmade by Society members. Trains of all types, passenger, freight, and circus trains, will be operating continuously.

Also on display will be the Society's collection of historic railroad memorabilia signage, railroad lanterns, steam locomotive bells and whistles, railroad photos, etc.

The Society's Annual Winter Christmas Show will be Saturdays and Sundays, December 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, from 1 to 6 p.m., at 341 Hoboken Road, Carlstadt. Donation is \$7 for adults, \$1 for children and five and under free.

For more information, call 201-939-9212 or go to: [modelengineers.org](http://modelengineers.org) ###

*The poinsettia plant was brought into the United States from Mexico by Joel Poinsett in the early 1800's. ###*

## Annual Christmas Delaware River Crossing Reenactment

Each December, thousands of people gather on the banks of the Delaware River to watch the reenactment of George Washington's daring 1776 Christmas night river crossing. During the event, several hundred reenactors in Continental military dress listen to an inspiring speech by General Washington and then row across the river in replica Durham boats.

The public has two opportunities to view the reenactment at Washington Crossing Historic Park.

The first crossing is Sunday, December 12, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (*actual crossing at 1 p.m.*). Cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children ages 5-11, free for children younger than 5. Family rate (*2 adults and 2 children*) is \$20.

In addition to the crossing reenactment narrated by Peter Hegseth, special Colonial-era activities and demonstrations in the Historic Village will offer a full day of family fun and learning.

The Christmas Day crossing is Saturday, December 25, 2021 from noon to 3 p.m. (*actual crossing at 1 p.m.*). Free.

### Additional details:

• Reenactors may register online from September 1 through November 15. All participating reenactors should review our clothing guidelines.

• Washington Crossing Historic Park is located at the intersection of Routes 532 and 32 (River Road) in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania. Direc-

tions to the park can be found here. Parking will be clearly marked.

• Individuals with disabilities who need special assistance or accommodations to attend should call the Visitor Center at 215-493-4076.

• River crossings are contingent upon safe conditions for participants. However, even if conditions do not allow for crossing, ceremonies, speeches and commemorative activities still occur.

• For more Colonial-era activities, the Old Barracks Museum in Trenton hosts reenactments of the Battle of Trenton and other celebrations during its annual Patriots Week festivities.

• Drones are not permitted at these events.

• For more information go to: [www.ushistory.org/washingtoncrossing/](http://www.ushistory.org/washingtoncrossing/) ###

## Santa to Visit Moonachie

Moonachie Fire Chief Justin Derevyanyk is pleased to announce that he has been in contact with Santa Claus and his team at the North Pole. Santa Claus will be visiting Moonachie on Saturday, December 18, 2021, continuing this great tradition.

The Moonachie Fire Department, as well as the Moonachie First Aid & Rescue Squad, will escort Santa and other special guests throughout all the streets in town. We expect Santa to arrive and begin his trip around town at approximately 1:45 p.m., and conclude approximately 6 p.m. Listen for the sirens and holiday music to know when Santa is in your neighborhood. Updates will be provided on the Moonachie Fire Department Facebook page, please follow us for the most up to the minute information. ###

**THINK GREEN**

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**Pre-Orders Recommended**



Pet Photos with Mrs. Claus

FOCAS (*Friends of the County Animal Shelter, Inc.*) will be hosting holiday pet pictures with Mrs. Claus and a Special Holiday Gift Fair on Sunday, December 5, 2021, at the American Legion, 100 Liberty Street, Little Ferry, from noon to 3 p.m. The cost per photo is \$10. All pets are welcome. Pets should be up-to-date on all shots and appropriately restrained. There will be refreshments, fabulous holi-

day gifts on sale for pets and people. Drawings for FREE surprise gifts (*must be present to receive*).

Let FOCAS put some “cheer” in your holiday!

The annual event benefits veterinary care for sick, homeless, and abandoned animals. ###

Holiday Tea Party Dec. 5

Join us in an old-fashioned, afternoon tea party - just in time for the holidays! Enjoy scones, tea sandwiches, pastries, a variety of teas and more in our beautiful clubhouse on Sunday, December 5, 2021, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Tickets are \$30 pp and must be purchased in advance. Please mail checks and your ticket order to The Woman's Club of Rutherford, 201 Fairview Avenue, Rutherford, NJ 07070.

Feel free to dress up in your best "tea party" attire! All proceeds to benefit local charities and the restoration of our historic Rutherford Carriage House. ###

HHMA Christmas Tree Sale

The Hasbrouck Heights Men's Association will be selling Christmas Trees this Holiday Season beginning Saturday, November 27, 2021, at St. John the Divine, at the corner of Franklin and Terrace.

They will be carrying an array of trees of various sizes and prices. This sale has been a Hasbrouck Heights holiday tradition for over twenty years.

The money raised goes to the HHMA Scholarship Fund that benefits graduating high school seniors from Hasbrouck Heights who want to attend college. The Hasbrouck Heights Men's Association wants to thank area residents for their on-going support of their sale. They wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season. ###

2021 Community Tree Lightings

**Carlstadt** Tree Lighting is 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 1, at Borough Hall.

**East Rutherford** Tree Lighting is Friday, November 26, at 7 p.m., in front of Borough Hall.

**Hasbrouck Heights** Annual Tree Lighting is November 26, 2021.

**Little Ferry** Annual Tree lighting is 6 p.m., December 3, 2021 and Borough Hall.

**Lodi** Annual Tree Lighting is 7 p.m., December 3, 2021, at Borough Hall. Refreshments.

**Moonachie** Annual Tree Lighting is 6 p.m., Saturday, December 4, 2021, at Borough Hall. (*Rain or shine.*) Refreshments, entertainment and train ride.

**Rutherford** Annual Tree Lighting is 5 p.m., Saturday, November 27, 2021. The Holiday Village follows until 8 p.m.

**South Hackensack** Annual Tree Lighting is 7 p.m., Saturday, December 4, 2021.

**Wallington** will host a Holiday Festival on Saturday, December 4, 2021, on Veterans Boulevard between Paterson Avenue and Maple Avenue. Tree lighting included.

**Wood-Ridge** Annual Tree Lighting is 7 p.m., Friday, November 26, at Veterans Park.

**Wood-Ridge Girl Scouts** Annual Tree Lighting is 5 p.m., Sunday, December 5, at Veterans Park. ###

Contact your Borough Clerk for details. ###

*The first Christmas card was created in England on December 9, 1842. ###*

Heights Friendly Neighbors Kick Off Annual Fund Drive

The members of the Friendly Neighbors will officially begin their annual campaign on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 2021. It will continue through New Year's Day. This charitable organization has been serving the residents of Hasbrouck Heights for 82 years. They work to maintain the anonymity of their clients in order to serve them with dignity.

The members of the group are from Christ First United Methodist Church, Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church, First Reformed Church, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and St. John the Divine Episcopal Church.

They donate their time in an effort toward raising money, to purchase food and supplies for needy local families. No expenses are taken and all funds go toward helping town residents.

At present, we are serving eight families with 12 children. These families are struggling more than ever to meet their financial obligations. It has been a very difficult year and continues to be for many. If you are able to share with another family to make their lives a little better, please make your check to Friendly Neighbors and mail to Elsie Sternbach, 133 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604. ###

Wallington FD Breakfast With Santa

Wallington Fire Department, Park Row Hose Co. 3, will be hosting their annual Pancake Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 5, 2021, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, at the Wallington Civic Center, 24 Union Boulevard, Wallington. There will be pictures with Santa. Donations, \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids ages 4 to 12. Tickets are available at the door. ###

W-R Holiday School Concert

Wood-Ridge Jr./Sr. High School Holiday Concert is Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 7 p.m., at the Wood-Ridge Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium, 258 Hackensack Street. All are welcome. Limited seating. Check <https://www.woodridgeschools.org> for details and updates. Snow date is December 15, 2021. ###

HH School Holiday Concert

The Hasbrouck Heights Jr./Sr. High School Holiday Concert is Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at 7 p.m., in the auditorium. Open to the public with free admission and open seating! All are welcome to hear the joyous sounds of the Holidays. ###

Becton Regional HS Concert December 18

The Henry P. Becton Regional High School cordially invites all to the Holiday Concert on December 18, 2021, at 7 p.m. The concert will be held at the James Williams Performing Arts Center, which is inside the high school, with various holiday performances from the Concert Band, the Concert Choir, and the Show Choir. Admission is free. ###

*Rudolph" was actually created by Montgomery Ward in the late 1930's for a holiday promotion. The rest is history.*

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Raffle tickets went on sale Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 26 tickets for \$10. The winning tickets will be pulled on December 11. For more information, call Cathy at 201-460-1600. ###



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# Photos with Santa



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## Pumpkin People Come Alive in Lincoln Park

The Woman's Club of Rutherford held its 6th Annual Pumpkin People in the Park fundraiser. The event ran until October 29, 2021.

This family-friendly event is a great way to view creativity and add some autumn flair to Lincoln Park, while supporting the many worthwhile endeavors of the Woman's Club.

Displays were 8 ft. x 10 ft. pumpkin patch spot with each space clearly labeled with business, organization, family or individual name. For more information, contact Laura at 201-893-1172. ###



## Halloween in the Park

Woodland Park was invaded by ghosts, goblins, aliens and assorted scary characters on the evening of Tuesday, October 19, 2021. Halloween in the Park began at 6:15 p.m. and concluded at 9:30 p.m.

Every 15 minutes, two hayride trailers took turns collecting riders at the Harrison Avenue end of the pavilion and went around to the back section of the park where they were frightened by a variety of

terrifying citizens of the night. After the horrific experience ride, they escaped at the Roosevelt Avenue end of the pavilion — where they were treated to cider and cookies. and a warm and glowing pa-

vilion fireplace. Youngsters signed up for the earlier time slots as the fright station were less scary. Children under 10 were accompanied by an adult. Al DeAngelo and Panto-

phobia Haunted Attractions assisted in this event. The event was sponsored by the Hasbrouck Heights Recreation Department. For more information, email hhrec@aol.com or all 201-288-4143. ###





Corpus Christi Pre-K students held a Halloween Walk in their parking lot on October 29, 2021. *Photo provided by Tony Greco Photography. ###*



### Family Fall Fun Night

Students from Roosevelt Elementary School in Lodi enjoyed the school's first Fall Fun Night. Families gathered together to decorate pumpkins from the school's pumpkin patch and enjoyed tasty fall treats including donuts and apple cider. It was a great event. *Provided by Jack Lipari, Principal, Roosevelt School. ###*



### Carlstadt Public School Pumpkin Carving: Donuts, Cider, Hot Dogs & Gifts

*Photos by Dennis Kronyak Sr.*



### Truck and Treat Day

On Saturday, October 30, 2021, members of Wood-Ridge Fire Department and Emergency Squad handed out candy to early trick or treaters and gave them a tour of the fire trucks and ambulance at Spencer Bank, Wood-Ridge. *Photos provided by Tony Greco Photography. ###*



### Scarecrow Day October 23

On Saturday, October 23, 2021, families and friends were invited to build a scarecrow on the Meadowlands Museum lawn! All supplies were provided (*scarecrow stand, old clothes, and hay*) but participants could bring special items to make their scarecrow unique! Displays were up four to six weeks. All proceeds helped support the Museum, a volunteer-run 501(c)3 non-profit organization. ###

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# Fierce Garage Fire Draws Three Alarms

On October 23, 2021, around 2 p.m., the Little Ferry Fire Department responded to fire at Chizzy's Truck & Auto Repair on Bergen Turnpike. The fierce blaze quickly went to three alarms. It took about an hour to bring the fire under control. About 75 firefighters participated.

Two injuries were reported; a worker sustaining minor burns had trouble breathing and a firefighter with a minor injury.

The building was a total loss, including several vehicles that were inside at the time of the fire.

Several area departments provided Mutual Aid either at the scene or in coverage to include Carlstadt, East Rutherford, Hackensack, Hasbrouck Heights, Lodi, Moonachie, Ridgefield Park, Rutherford, Wallington, Wood-Ridge. *Photos provided by Little Ferry Fire Department. ###*



## Extrication Required for Roll Over

On Thursday, October 28, 2021, a two car accident at Summit and Springfield Avenues required the services of the Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department to extricate the female driver out of her rolled over car. Firefighters removed the windshield and safely extricated the victim. Two injuries were reported and treated. *Photo provided by Tony Greco Photography. ###*



South Bergen Fire Chiefs' Beefsteak was held Friday night, November 5, 2021, at The Fiesta. Several presentations were made. Ex-Chief Tony Chiodo presented Keith Rado with a thank you letter for the hospitality he gave to the South Bergen Fire Chiefs' Association for the Beefsteak in 2019. Tony then presented Keith Rado, Proprietor of the Fiesta, with an honorary membership to the South Bergen Fire Chiefs' Association. He also presented Heather Kutler, Maitre d' and Matt Landy, Co-Proprietor of the Fiesta, with their honorary membership to South Bergen Fire Chiefs' Association. Matt isn't present in the picture. *Photo by Ron Jeffers. ###*

## William G. Hunt: Fifty Years of Service

William G. Hunt is a long-time resident of Moonachie. He and his wife have been married for fifty years. Chief Hunt is a fifty-year member of the Moonachie Volunteer Fire Department. He joined the Department in 1971. Bill has served as the Chief of the Department twice and is now the Assistant Chief. In his fifty years, he has seen many fires, ranging from industry and residential locations, to Meadowlands brush fires and the American Dream Ski Ramp fire.

He recalls how the Department and the Borough of Moonachie were severely tested by Hurricane Sandy. There was over three feet of water in the firehouse. Even though much of the Department's equipment was lost, he is proud of how everyone came together to serve the people of Moonachie in their hour of need.

His son is a twenty-year member of the Department and has served as Chief, also.



*Jim Halloran, Jr. presents Chief Hunt with a certificate from The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for his fifty years of service. ###*

His son in-law, a police officer, is currently a member and has held the position of Fire Chief. Bill is also a Veteran of the US Navy. He enlisted in 1965. He served aboard the USS La Salle, LPD 3. Bill remembers the time his ship was tasked with the mission to recover the

GEMINI 2-MOL test space capsule's second flight near Ascension Island. The capsule was returned to Cape Kennedy. Thank you, sir, for your service to both the nation and the Borough of Moonachie. *Photo and story by James J. Halloran, Jr. ###*





# Bulldog Champs

Photos and captions provided by Michael C. Paskas. ###



The Rutherford Mighty Mites won their final game vs. New Milford to complete an undefeated 2021 season.



The Rutherford Juniors (10-11 yr olds) have moved on to the MFL Super Bowl with a (10-0) record. They will be playing the Manchester Falcons in East Rutherford.

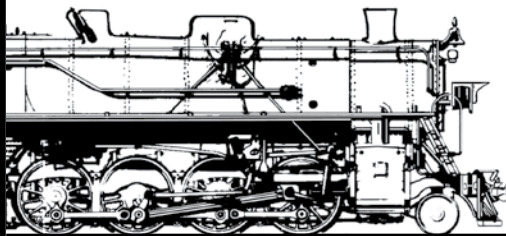


The Rutherford Pee Wees (8-9 yr olds) have moved on to the MFL Super Bowl with a (10-0) record. They will be playing the Hasbrouck Heights Aviators in East Rutherford.

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# Wood-Ridge Lions Volunteer to do Eye Screening for County School Children

Five Lions from the Wood-Ridge Lions Club had a busy October, volunteering to screen school children for eye deficiencies using SPOT Vision Screening cameras supplied by Lions District 16N Charitable Foundation.

A total of 2,151 children in pre-school through middle school in 17 schools primarily throughout Bergen County were screened for a number of eye issues, which are important to be detected and acted upon at early age. This initiative is supported through Lions Clubs International's KidSight program.

The Wood-Ridge Eye Screening team – Mike Roman, Rich McCullough, Ken Turtoro, Jimmy Love, and Dennis Brubaker – conducted these

screenings along with Lions from Bergenfield, Rutherford, Midland Park and West New York.

The Lions conduct the screenings under the observation and participation of the school nurse, and all referrals are followed up by the nurse. The Lions are there only to do the screening procedure.

The Wood-Ridge Lions started eye screening several years ago at Catherine E. Doyle Elementary School in Wood-Ridge and Robert L. Craig Elementary School in Moonachie and plan to continue to do so.

Other schools in our immediate area do not provide the opportunity to eye screen their students by the Lions.

The Lions are there to provide this important free service and are looking forward to serving other school districts in the future. Please contact Lion Dennis Brubaker at drbru@verizon.net for more information. *Provided by Jack Nagel ###*

*The only way to keep your health is to eat what you don't want, drink what you don't like, and do what you'd rather not.*  
Mark Twain.



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## Filling You In

By Jeffrey E. Mason, DMD, FAGD.

### What you should know about oral cancer

#### How do dentists screen for cancer?

Oral cancer is the sixth most common cancer, accounting for nearly 5 percent of all cases. Close to 53,000 Americans are expected to be diagnosed with oral or pharyngeal cancer this year. It is expected to cause more than 9,750 deaths, killing roughly 1 person per hour, 24 hours per day, according to The Oral Cancer Foundation.

Oral cancer is particularly dangerous because it can go unnoticed in its preliminary stages.

In many cases, however, general dentists can detect the disease early, which makes the dental community the first line of defense against oral cancer.

Read on to learn more about oral cancer and why it's crucial to talk with your gen-

eral dentist immediately if you believe that you are experiencing any symptoms.

#### What are the warning signs of oral cancer?

Oral cancer typically is painless in its early stages but can become painful as it spreads. Go to your dentist immediately if you observe any of the following: changes in the way your teeth fit together; oral sores that bleed easily or don't heal; lumps, thickening, rough spots, or crusty or eroded areas in the mouth; or difficulty swallowing, chewing, speaking, or moving the jaw or tongue.

During an oral cancer screening, your dentist will feel for lumps or irregular tissue changes in your neck, head, cheeks and oral cavity.

He or she also will examine the soft tissues in your mouth, looking for sores or discolored tissues.

He or she also may use screening devices that use rinses, dyes or different types of lights to detect abnormal cells. It's important to remember that your dentist does not necessarily think you have oral cancer if he or she performs a screening. An oral cancer screening is part of a routine dental checkup, even when you have no symptoms.

### How is oral cancer treated?

Methods of treatment for oral cancer include surgery, radiation therapy and/or chemotherapy. This treatment is determined in conjunction with your physician.

### What are the risk factors for oral cancer?

Risk factors for oral cancer include tobacco use, alcohol use, sun exposure (lips), previous head and neck cancer diagnosis and human papilloma virus (HPV) infection. HPV can cause cancer in the back of the throat (*oropharyngeal cancer*), including the base of the tongue and tonsils.

### How can I prevent oral cancer?

To help prevent oral cancer, abstain from using all forms of tobacco, and avoid excessive sun exposure and alcohol consumption.

Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that all preteen boys and girls, ages 11 to 12, should be vaccinated for HPV, which may aid in reducing the risk of oral cancer. The vaccines also are recommended for males and females, ages 13 to 26, if they haven't received them already.

Because successful treatment and rehabilitation of oral cancer are dependent upon early detection, it is extremely important to regularly check your mouth for any changes and to maintain regular dental visits, at least every six months.

*Reference: Academy of General Dentistry 2020.*

*Dr. Jeffrey Mason is a cosmetic and general dentist at 232 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ. 201-288-4447, [www.DrJeffreyMason.com](http://www.DrJeffreyMason.com)*

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**Library Hours:** The Rutherford Public Library is now open Monday-Saturday. Please take note of our December holiday hours. The Library will be closed all day on December 23, 24, 25 and 31, as well as January 1.

• **Grab & Go Doorside Pickup.** The Rutherford Public Library continues to offer daily Grab & Go doorside pickup services for those who may not want to enter the building.

Patrons are invited to order books from the BCCLS catalog by visiting [www.bccls.org](http://www.bccls.org) or fill out a Grab & Go form for either the adult or children's collection, and our team will choose items for you based on what you like!

These forms are available on our website. If you don't have access to a computer, all the Library at 201-939-8600 and have our team order items for you! You tell us what you want and when you'd like to pick your items up, and we'll have them ready for you.

**Upcoming Programs**  
The Rutherford Public Library continues to offer a mix of virtual and limited in-person programming for children and adults. Visit [RutherfordLibrary.org](http://RutherfordLibrary.org) and click on the Calendar tab to learn what's coming up. You can also call us at 201-939-8600 for more information.

• **Looking for a Job?** Don't forget to check out the Rutherford Library's website for some helpful tools on the Jobseekers page. Located under the Adult Services heading on the main web page, there are direct links to job sites such as the Bergen County Job Center and announcements for federal and state civil service jobs. You will also find job search tools such as the Job & Career Accelerator database that can help you build a resume or prepare for interviews. Take a look!

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*Originally, Christmas decorations were home-made paper flowers, or apples, biscuits, and sweets. The earliest decorations to be bought came from Nuremburg in Germany, a city famous for the manufacture of toys.*

*Lauscha in Germany is famous for its glass ornaments. In 1880, America discovered Lauscha and F.W. Woolworth went there and bought a few glass Christmas tree ornaments. Within a day he had sold out so next year he bought more and within a week they, too, had sold. The year after that he bought 200,000 Lauscha ornaments.*

*During the First World War supplies of ornaments from Lauscha ceased, so American manufacturers began to make their own ornaments, developing new techniques that allowed them to turn out as many ornaments in a minute as could be made in a whole day at Lauscha. ###*

**Lodi Memorial Library**  
**Lodi Memorial Library**, One Memorial Drive, Lodi, NJ 07644. 973-365-4044. <http://lodi.bccls.org/>

The Lodi Memorial Library is open to the public! Check out our outdoor and Grab & Go programs for children and teens. More programming information can be found online on our Facebook page and Website.

**Special Programs**  
• **Adult Grab & Go Craft.** Two Crafts in One Bag - Snowman Tea Light & Yarn Gnome. Two adorable winter ornaments to make – a smiling snowman face whose nose lights up and a loveable little yarn gnome.

Supplies are limited, so register by December 8, 2021. You can pick up your craft starting on December 13. To register, call The Library at 973-365-4044 ext 2.

• **TuesdayNightBook Club.** Tuesday, December 7, 2021, from 6:30 to 7:30, on Zoom. December's book is "A Good Neighborhood" (352 pages) by Therese Anne Fowler. Go to our website or contact Karyn Gost at [director@lodi.bccls.org](mailto:director@lodi.bccls.org) for more information about our virtual book club meetings. ###

**Children Special Programs**  
• **Tasty Treats for Kids.** Pickup starts Wednesday, December 8, 2021. Take home a tasty treat you can put together yourself! This grab & go program is open to kids in Grade Pre-K-3rd. Registration is required.

• **Grab & Go Crafts:** Grades 3 to 12. Pickup starts Monday, December 6 and Monday, December 20. Kids and teens in Grades 3-12 can register for December grab & go craft projects. This month

we are making paper snowflakes and painted emoji rocks! Registration is required.

• **Grab & Go STEM Project.** Pickup starts Tuesday, December 14. Follow along with Miss Emily from home as we do a STEM activity! This grab & go program is open to kids in Grades Pre-K-2. Registration is required.

• **Creative Cooking Grab & Go.** Pickup starts Wednesday, December 15. Each month we will have a different recipe for you to take home and create! This grab & go program is open to patrons in Grades 4-12. Registration is required.

Use caution with holiday decorations and whenever possible, choose those made with flame-resistant, flame-retardant or non-combustible materials.

**On-going:**  
• **Grab & Go Kids Crafts.** Weekly. Each week The Library will have a new craft that you can take home and make! Bags are first come, first served so be sure to show up early in the week. Toddlers – Grade 2. No registration required.

• **Storytime.** Every Friday at 11 a.m. on Facebook Live. No need to register, just tune in to Facebook to sing songs and read some fun books together with Miss Emily. ###

*Father Christmas' reindeer are called Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner/Donder, Blitzen, and Rudolph. Eight of these names are taken from Clement C. Moore's "A Visit From St. Nicholas," and the ninth from the song "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" (NB. Donner is also known as Donner.) ###*

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## Wood-Ridge Memorial Library

**Wood-Ridge Memorial Library**, 231 Hackensack Street, Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075. 201-438-2455. <https://woodridgememoriallibrary.org>

The Wood-Ridge Memorial Library is open to the public at 100% capacity. Computer time is limited to sixty minutes, no advance reservation required. The Book Drop is open for returns. Porch pickup is available upon request. Check website for updated information.

• **Music with Miss Nita.** Miss Nita is back with her music and movement classes on the Library Lawn on December 1, 8 and 15 at 10:30 a.m. (*weather permitting*). Join us as we share the joys of making music. Check our website Events Calendar for registration.

• **Storytime with Miss Jennie.** Do you like to read? We do! Join Children's Librarian, Miss Jennie, for exciting stories and songs. Storytime will be held on December 3 and 17 at 11 a.m. in the Children's Room. Check our website Events Calendar for registration.

• **Storytime with Santa (Zoom).** It's almost Christmas!!!! The Wood-Ridge Memorial Library invites all to join Santa on December 17, 2021, at 2 p.m., on Zoom for some holiday stories and fun! Send us your questions ahead of time for Santa to answer them during the Zoom meeting (*this can be found in the registration*). Registration is required. Check the Event Calendar on our website

• **Children's Crafts-to-Go.** Every Tuesday will feature a new craft kit complete with all necessary materials. Video instructions will be posted to our Youtube and Facebook pages. To reserve your kit for porch pickup call The Library or email Miss Jennie at [jennie.sudia@woodridge.bccls.org](mailto:jennie.sudia@woodridge.bccls.org)

• **Flavor Labs (Zoom)** Calling all teens! Join us on Zoom on December 13, 2021, at 4 p.m. for Flavor Labs to show us how to make some yummy recipes! Registration is required. Check the Event Calendar on our website

• **Boredom Busters for Children.** Bored at home? Can't think of anything to do? Then check out our monthly Boredom Busters for a STEM based activity! You can find this month's on our Event Calendar website and Facebook and Instagram pages on December 1.

• **English as a Second Language.** Classes for adults at no charge. For more information, please check our website. Check Library for details.

• **Book Club:** We'll be holding Book Club on December 9, at 7 p.m.! Sign up on our website to receive a free copy of the book (*while supplies last*). Call The Library for details.

• **Databases:** The Wood-Ridge Memorial Library offers many entertaining and educational databases, including, but not limited to, Gale LegalForms, CultureGrams, Ancestry and Biography in Context. We also offer a film streaming service through Kanopy. ###

*Clearing up a common misconception, in Greek, X means Christ. That is where the word "X-Mas" comes from. Not because someone took the "Christ" out of Christmas. ###*

## Hasbrouck Heights Free Public Library

**Hasbrouck Heights Free Public Library**, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604. 201-288-0488, <http://hasbrouckheightslibrary.org>.

The Free Public Library of Hasbrouck Heights is open for in-person browsing and computer use. In accordance with the recently published CDC guidelines, masks are to be worn for all individuals when visiting The Library.

The public Library has many services available. For the most up-to-date information and guidelines call 201-288-0488 or email [hashc@bccls.org](mailto:hashc@bccls.org). The Library's winter hours are: Mondays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays-Thursdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The public can return library materials to our book box in the back of the municipal building.

The Library continues to offer virtual and in-person activities for the whole family and for the life-long learner. Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted.

### WHOLE FAMILY

Help fill the Children's Room with gingerbread people! Stop by the Children's Desk and pick up a wooden gingerbread figure to work on at home. Create your favorite book character, or decorate, paint, dress in an ugly sweater - the choice is yours! Bring back by Monday, December 13 and we'll display our gingerbread village throughout the holidays.

### CHILDREN

**The \*New\* Book Buddies Craft and Storytime Starter**, Mondays, December 6 and 13. Continuation of the November program. A PreK picture book suggestion will be emailed and a themed craft bag may be picked up during Library hours. Best for ages 2-4.

• **Bundle-Up Storytime** at Central Avenue Playground, Wednesdays, December 1 & December 8, at 11 a.m. Put on your coat, find your mittens and join Ms. Maureen for storytime. Registration is limited to 18 children to allow for social distancing. Bring a blanket or chair for your child to sit on. Program subject to cancellation in case of inclement or very cold weather. Best for toddlers-PreK.

• **Little Artists - Hot Cocoa Mug Magnet Craft**, Friday, December 10 and Saturday, December 11. This month we're making magnet crafts that look like mugs of hot cocoa! Keep it or give to someone special as a holiday gift. Pick

up inside the Library on Friday or Saturday. Best for Grades K-5.

• **Wednesday Workshop at Home.** Marshmallow Catapult, December 15. Science is fun! Register to pick up a simple STEM challenge you can do at home building a catapult to launch marshmallows! Supply bags available on Wednesday and a how-to video will be posted on YouTube. Best for Grades 2 and up.

### TEENS & ADULTS

• **Teen & Adult Craft-to-Go.** Snowy Mason Jar Luminary, Tuesday, December 21. Pick up from 2 to 8 p.m. Swing by to grab a to-go bag and show us what you make. Register on website calendar for supplies.

### ADULTS

• **Christmas in WWII**, Saturday, December 11 at 1 p.m. via Zoom. Learn about the World War II home front. Hear talks about the men and women serving in the war in the U.S. as well as the families that stayed at home. Take a peek into how rationing, blackouts, bond drives affected civilian life, and how customs such as Christmas decorations, gifts, food preparation, and ingredients were changed because of shortages.

• **Gifts from the Heart.** Hand-crafted Treasures for Friends and Family, Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 6 p.m. Presenters, Elaine and Robin, will discuss the concept of creating holiday gifts for people, using simple materials, ideas and techniques to make one-of-a-kind items for their close friends and loved ones. This presentation is for all ages and will go over how to find ideas, materials, and even skills to make personal and memorable gifts for the holidays.

• **Crafts-to-Share Club**, Tuesday, December 14 from 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, December 22 from 1 to 3 p.m. Drop in to chat and work on a crafty project! Enjoy getting to know other crafters in your community while you knit, crochet, embroider or craft anything! We have donated yarn for any crafters looking to create for a good cause. In-person and on Zoom.

• **Adult Book Club**, 4th Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m., In-Person and via Zoom. Our adult book discussion club meets the 4th Tuesday of every month. Although the book club doesn't meet in December, please look forward to the first meeting of 2022 on January 28. The book club pick is "The Body in the Library" by Agatha Christie. Available in Large Print, eBook and eAudiobook in Hoopla. Reserve your copy today! ###

## Carlstadt Public Library

**Carlstadt Library**, 420 Hackensack Street, Carlstadt, NJ 07072. 201-438-8866, Handicap accessible. [carlstadt.bccls.org](http://carlstadt.bccls.org) or [www.carlstadtlibrary.org](http://www.carlstadtlibrary.org)

• **Crafts for Crafters - Grab n' Go.** For adults ages 18 and older, get festive at home decorating an adorable wooden gnome ornament. Pick-up begins December 1, 2021 through December 29, while supplies last. Call for more information.

• **Healthy Habits During the Holidays.** LIVE, with Stephanie Sass MS, RD from the ShopRite of Wallington on Wednesday, December 8 at 2 p.m., at the Carlstadt Civic Center. Get tips and recipe recommendations on how to keep those pounds at bay. For adults 18 and older. The Civic Center is at 425 4th Street. Registration required. Call for more information. Masks required.

• **Virtual Family Craft Night.** On Zoom for a special family craft night with Adult Services Coordinator Rebecca and Children's Librarian Miss Risa on Thursday, December 9 at 7 p.m. Get step-by-step instructions on how to make a mini cork wreath ornament.

All supplies, except a hot glue gun, provided. One kit per household. A Zoom link will be emailed after registering. Call 201-438-8866 for more information.

• **As the Page Turns - Adult Book Club.** Calling fellow bookworms! Join the Carlstadt Library, live, at the Carlstadt Civic Center to discuss the novel "Good Company" by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney on Wednesday, December 29 at 7 p.m. Copies are available at the Circulation Desk. Carlstadt residents can access the ebook or audiobook on the Hoopla or Libby apps! The Carlstadt Civic Center is located at 425 4th Street in Carlstadt. Masks are required. Please register at [carlstadtlibrary.org](http://carlstadtlibrary.org) or call 201-438-8866 for more information.

• **Make-It-and-Take-It - Crafts for Kids.** The Carlstadt Library welcomes children of all ages for a monthly make-it-and-take-it craft. This month's pick-up is a Snowman Picture Frame Magnet. Kits available at the Library from December 1 through December 29, while supplies last. Call 201-438-8866 for more information.

• **Music with Miss Nita.** Miss Nita at the Carlstadt Village Green on Thursday, December 2, 9, 16 at 10:30 a.m. for songs, rhymes, movement and instrument play.

In the case of inclement weather, enjoy this event on the Carlstadt Facebook page. For ages 6 months to 5 years. Register for each session.###



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Prosecutor Speaks to Older is Better

Bergen County Prosecutor, Mark Musella, was the perfect presenter for Felician University’s Older is Better (OIB) program, titled Senior Scam on October 8, 2021.

“One of the priorities of my office is community engagement, and we try to speak to community members about topics that are interesting and timely, especially with regards to crime. Sometimes we can educate people and even prevent a crime before it happens,” the Prosecutor said to 18 seniors, who gathered for the talk at Obal Hall on Felician University’s Lodi Campus.

The Prosecutor’s OIB talk on preventing crimes against seniors is timely because according to the Prosecutor, Bergen County has experienced an uptick in crimes against seniors due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Senior citizens are the target of various scams and fraud schemes by criminals,” said Prosecutor Musella. This is because they worked hard, made money, are friendly and trusting, which puts them at risk.

“Criminals,” warned the Prosecutor, “are smart and sophisticated, and always try to stay ahead of the curve.” He said that senior citizens “must always be on guard because there are people out there who make a living by scamming and that’s all they do. They do it in person, on the phone, and on the computer.”

Prosecutor Musella then outlined the most common in-person scams such as the driveway/roof repair scam where criminals offer to make repairs, often doing either low-quality work or never finishing a job. He also warned of the utility company/distraction scam, where individuals pose as water, utility, or cable company employees to get inside a home under the guise of a made up “emergency.” Prosecutor Musella told the group to, “never allow anyone into your home without independently verifying their credentials,” sharing that his own parents were scammed in this way. Mary

Ann Colle of Wood-Ridge, admitted she sometimes allows people into her home saying, “The Prosecutor definitely said things that made sense, and I will not do it anymore.” Pat Zak from Garfield found the Senior Scam program extremely informative, and says she plans to take the warnings shared by Prosecutor Musella to heart. “I liked that he said, if confronted, keep asking questions. I don’t answer my door because you just never know.”

Phone scams are also common against senior citizens and Prosecutor Musella cautioned OIB participants about Social Security, IRS, romance, charity, and the “grandparent scam” where callers ask for bail money for a grandchild in trouble.

The Prosecutor quickly reminded the seniors, “there is no bail in New Jersey.” He also warned them to limit the amount of information they give out. First-time Older is Better attendee, Suzanne Paul of Elmwood Park, said she will definitely, “Incorporate tips I learned from the presentation,” adding, “everyone was very welcoming, and it is so nice that Felician reaches out to the community and offers these programs.”

OIB member, Terry Richardson, was impressed the Prosecutor’s Office goes out of the way to engage with and help the community, and found the information, “Very pertinent, very relevant,” particularly because her husband was a victim of an email scam a few months ago. The Prosecutor’s Office has plans for at least 30 community outreach visits in Bergen County.

Older is Better meets Friday afternoons at 1pm in the 2nd Floor Lecture Room in Obal Hall on the Lodi campus. The nominal \$3 attendance fee is being waived for the Fall 2021 semester. If interested in becoming an Older is Better member, contact Bierka Paulino at PaulinoB@felician.edu or Aneta Wygonik at WygonikaA@felician.edu. ###

HH Seniors Halloween Luncheon

On October 21, 2021, the Hasbrouck Heights Recreation Department hosted a Halloween party for seniors.

Robert Brady, Director of Recreation, welcomed everyone and was delighted to see so many people dressed up in costume for the occasion. He did a fabulous job getting everyone off to a fun filled afternoon.

There was non-stop dancing, the line dancers had a ball. The music was provided by DJ I. Rico Ventola.

The food was delicious and plenty of it, even enough for anyone to take some home. Cake, cookies and coffee were

served. There was a great variety of costumes, even Carol Burnett turned up together with her mop (Dot Fitzin). All and all, a great time was had by everyone.

Upcoming Events

• December 8: Christmas Party at The Venetian, 546 River Drive, Garfield, from noon to 4 p.m. Music provided by DJ Jimmy Dee. Put on your dancing shoes and let's celebrate. Details to follow. Stay well! *Provided by Gladys Gamble. ###*

LF Seniors

Little Ferry Bingo is held at the Senior Center on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Senior meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of the month at 1 p.m at Little Ferry Senior Center.

Their Christmas Party will be held December 16, 2021 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Bistrotto Restaurant in Moonachie. *Provided by Nilda Rojas. ###*

Moonachie Senior Club

On Wednesday, October 20, 2021, from 1 to 3 p.m., Moonachie Senior Club celebrated its 50th Anniversary (1971-2021) at the Moonachie Senior Center,

The Golden Senior Citizen Anniversary Party included a buffet, music, fun surprises and special guests.

Any seniors living in Moonachie, who are at least 60 years young, may join our Club. The dues are only \$10 a year, payable at our first meeting in January of every year.

At several of our meetings, we will have speakers on interesting topics and some form of entertainment. After every meeting, you will receive a small, tasty Club sandwich, a cup of tea or coffee, and some pastry. At the end of the year, you will also enjoy a Christmas party, at a local restaurant.

Anyone from Moonachie who might be interested in joining our Club, please call Roxane at 201-807-1085. *Provided by Charles Pallas. ###*

Carlstadt Senior Friendship Club

Senior Friendship Club, Inc. meets at the Civic Center Building, every first and third Wednesday of each month. Also, every Thursday and every fifth Wednesday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., with craft classes and card games

Senior Club Meetings are 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. We have interesting events at our regular meeting days with guest speakers and entertainment. We follow protocols of CDC to be on safe side.

We are planning for more varieties of programs, such as cultural events, hands on art and craft, musical events and much more. *Provided by Yogi Shah. ###*

Lodi Senior Citizens Club Now Open

The Lodi Senior Citizens Club begins its 53rd year. The Club meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month.

Every Thursday is Fun Day. We have a pool table, shuffleboard and Bingo.

Plus, we usually have entertainment at most of the meetings.

We are located at 22 Walnut Street, Lodi. For more information call 973-472-6994. Hope to see all of you Lodi Seniors. ###

ER Seniors

Caesars Atlantic Bus Trip is hosted by ER Seniors Club. Bus departs December 20, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. sharp, from CVS parking lot on Paterson Avenue. \$35 pp includes \$30 slot play.

Any East Rutherford senior resident interested in joining the Club, meetings are held at 1 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at the Senior Civic Center, 37 Vreeland Avenue. Refreshments are served. There are special events and parties throughout the year.

Free blood-pressure screenings - on the 4th Tuesday of the month beginning at 11:30 a.m. Membership is \$15 per year. Contact Debbie for membership at 201-803-4708 and Josephine for trips at 201-981-6284. ###

*Germany made the first artificial Christmas trees. They were made of goose feathers and dyed green. ###*

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# *This Holiday Season, Let's Share Food and Cheers!*

By the Wine Guys Angel Martinez and Philip Miuccio

The Holiday Season is upon us once again and with it brings appreciation of good times with our friends and family.

Having a nice bottle of wine adds warmth and merriment to the season. The sound of a popping cork and the pouring of your favorite wine or bubbly are sure to bring a smile to everyone's face, just remember not to point the bottle towards anyone.

It's a great time to start all social events with a nice bottle of well chilled sparkling wine to set the mood just right and get your party or dinner started.

These should be well chilled at approximately 43° to 50°. Also, remember to keep your white wines cool as this helps bring out the brightness of white wines. If you like to save room within the refrigerator, place them in a bucket of ice 30 minutes prior to guests arriving. As for your red wines, some say keep them at room temperature. However, you'll do them justice if they are slightly cooled at around 50° to 65° before serving. This also brings out the berries and red fruit characteristics of the wine.

## **Hors d'oeuvres & Appetizers**

A dry sparkling wine goes well with a majority of hors d'oeuvres, appetizers, and first courses regardless if you are serving meats, cheeses, or vegetables.

Here are a couple of recommended choices to assist you. Louis Bouillot Perle d'Aurore Rosé from Burgundy, France.

If you're having trouble buying a sparkling wine that isn't Champagne, Louis Bouillot Perle d'Aurore is a nice choice. A sophisticated dry Rosé made using the traditional Champagne method with a bouquet and palate that features lively cherry and strawberry notes.

Prosecco is very popular here in the states, the La Marca Prosecco or Cupcake Prosecco both are from the Veneto region of Italy. It sparkles with fine effervescence of green apple, white peach and honeysuckle flavors which are sure to please everyone. While we just mentioned a few you certainly can pick any of your current favorite sparkling wines and you can't go wrong.

There are many types of sparkling wines from around

the world to choose from. Keep in mind that only sparkling wine that comes from the region of Champagne, France can be called "Champagne," anything else are called sparkling wines.

Champagne is well-known, but there are other variations such as Crémant from France, Cava from Spain, Prosecco or Spumante from Italy and Sekt from Germany.

Having a glass ready for your guests from the following list once they arrive will put you on the top of the most gracious host list. These delightful wines will pair well with your appetizers, pasta (*seriously you're going to try and not have a pasta course*)? I didn't think so. A good cavatelli and broccoli is a nice touch. It will go with any of your main course dishes that you may prepare. Be it turkey, ham, pork loin or any seafood dish. Of course, dessert and sparkling wine just really finishes off the night.

You will not go wrong picking a couple of these.

## **Salad Course**

Next, if you are going with a salad, perhaps a Pinot Gris or nice dry Reisinger goes well with a mixed green salad of mild lettuce, shaved endive and anise, thinly sliced pears, goat cheese croutons, lightly dressed with a fruity vinaigrette. If you want to get fancy, don't forget to serve your salad in a chilled plate.

## **Pasta Course**

Yes, of course, there is pasta! But while a Bolognese would be a meal in itself and would recommend a hearty Italian Ruffino Chianti or Banfi Chianti Classico which pairs well with a wide variety of foods, including red-sauced pastas. This pasta course can be much lighter and a smaller portion. For example, a timeless cavatelli and broccoli in white wine sauce, or a simple serving of penne in a light, fresh tomato sauce with basil comes to mind.

A lighter red like a Pinot Noir will also work with these dishes, this sexy glass of wine will compliment the pasta course. We can think of nothing better than our favorite Willamette Valley vineyards from Oregon, this light bodied, dry, with the taste of red berries and hibiscus, will compliment your pasta dish and impress

your guests.

## **Main Course**

While we know that many different wines will go with just as many main courses, we are going to give you our suggestions for the wine that will go with a main course that you may be having. Having more than one main course option, then you could serve a couple of wine options for each course. Your family and friends will not forget the effort.

**Beef** – With any beef dish we suggest the following wines. Did someone say Prime Rib? A California Sonoma or Napa Valley Merlot or Cabernet Sauvignon will work nicely. Two that come to mind are: Francis Ford Coppola Merlot, "Just when I thought I was out, they pulled me back in," or the popular Josh Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon.

**Pork** – Porky pig never tasted so good! They are Cabernet Franc by Ink Block produced by Michael David Winery out of California. A super Tuscan works just as well with pork, the standout is from Banfi, a Centine Rosso, this Red blend with dark fruit, floral accents, hints of spice will pair well with your pork dish.

**Poultry** – a nice New Zealand Oyster Bay Chardonnay, a vibrant white with aromas of crisp citrus and peach or a white French Burgundy Jadot Pouilly Fuisse will do the trick. Chardonnay is said to be Americas favorite grape, in fact we drank about 60 million cases last year. That's a lot of wine!

**Fish** – For the light flaky fish try Sea Glass Sauvignon Blanc from Santa Barbara California, with its pronounced aromas of lemon, lime, grapefruit and lively flavors. Meaty fish types such as tuna, salmon, swordfish go for a Pinot Noir, if you're feeling adventurous. However, if you're a traditionalist, look for a varietal like Chenin Blanc from Pine Ridge from Napa, California. It's easy drinking, and a good balance of ripe pear and apple with a touch of citrus on the palate.

## **Dessert**

Now we are talking about our favorite portion of any holiday meal. The sweetness which brings everyone's memories back to their childhood. Only now we get to enjoy them with some awesome wines.

Selecting an Italy Lambrusco, a Tawny Port from Portugal or a late harvest Ice Wine from Canada or Germany, are a few to sure satisfy that sweet tooth and compliment just about any dessert your guests may bring; either from a local bakery or homemade by mom, sibling or your significant other, it will make for a nice ending.

## **Bonus Drinking**

Just when you thought it was safe there is more. For those die-hards, who have no intention of going home, you can spend the night after having one or more of the following: A Glass Vintage Port from Taylor Fladgate, Woodford Bourbon or Four Roses single barrel bourbon, Single Malt Scotch Macallan, Glenmorangie whiskey.

## **Extra Wine Picks**

Need a bit more help in making some wine selections? Here is a list of other wines that will help you with your Christmas dinner and parties.

- Kendall Jackson Vintner's Reserve Chardonnay 2013 (CA) - This Chardonnay is a delicious compilation of fruit and smoke, full-bodied and balanced.

Apple, melon and pear dominate the palate and are well supported by a rich, buttery texture.

- Chateau Ste. Michelle Columbia Valley Riesling 2013 (WA) - As America's number one selling Riesling, Chateau Ste. Michelle makes a series of outstanding Rieslings at various price points. Those seeking a "nice, sweet" Riesling are looking for - plenty of peach, good dose of acidity and nice overall off-dry style.

- St. Supery Sauvignon Blanc Napa Valley 2013 (CA) - Citrus fruits burst to the forefront with orange, lemon and lime defining the palate. This Sauvignon Blanc also boasts a refreshing spirit with lots of spunk - earth, slate and balanced acidity all move within the wine providing ample elegance, familiarity and vibrancy for a festive holiday gathering.

- Seven Hills Pinot Gris 2012 (OR) - A terrific Pinot Gris for the price and the flavor! This one will catch your attention with the honeyed pears and crisp apple flavor, followed by a refreshing finish. Pair this one with your favorite hors d'oeuvres.

- King Estate Acrobat Pinot Noir 2012 (OR) - A super-value Pinot Noir from one of Oregon's largest producers. This Pinot Noir has remarkable fruit on the nose with ripe raspberry and cherry vying for attention. The palate flavors center on cranberry and cherry fruit with a soft tannin structure and engaging finish. Perfect for picnics!

- Rex Goliath Pinot Noir (CA) - Named after a 47 pound Texas rooster from the early 1900s, this Pinot Noir offers an undistracted aroma of ripe berries and a hint of spice.

The flavor profile consists largely of strawberries and raspberries, with very subtle tannins and light weight acidity. A pleasant, supple Pinot Noir with enough versatility to go with everything.

- Yellow Tail Shiraz (Aus) - The Yellow Tail Shiraz has good berry fruit-forward flavor, with raspberries rising to the top of the palate and a decent finish.

- Korbel Champagne Brut - Whether you're celebrating something specific or just need to have a bottle of bubbly on hand. This is a Champagne standby that is perfect for party goers, the price is right, the taste is good and many guests just elect to have a sip or two anyway.

## **Wine Serving Tips**

- Red wines into fridge for 10 minutes before serving
- White wine into fridge 30 minutes before serving
- Sparkling wines into fridge 45 minutes before serving
- Port or Ice wines into fridge 1 hour, then take out for 10 minutes before serving.

Remember, it matters not if the wine glass is half empty or half full; clearly there is room for more!

On behalf of all of us, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Joyfully Happy Holiday Season. May you and your family and friends enjoy and be safe. Until the next time, **Enjoy, Drink, Cheers and Salute!**

*President and Wine Judge Angel Martinez, Vice President Philip Miuccio and Treasurer Denise Griner. All around wine guys and gal, American Wine Society, Meadowlands Chapter. Wineclub201@gmail.com ###*



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## Real Estate Insight

By Mary Ellen Courtney



### "For Sale" During the Holidays? Why not!?

The winter season which takes place between December 21st and March 20th, has proven to actually be one of the most successful times to list and sell your home in the United States.

And south central Bergen County, NJ is no exception! The winter has led to quicker home sales for sellers, as well as higher prices.

In fact, researchers at Realtor Magazine have found that in December, 17% of listings produced the highest total all year of above-asking offers.

So, if you find yourself wondering whether December, or any other winter month for that matter is a good time to sell, you've found your answer. Yes! Winter is a great time to sell a home here in our local area!

Selling a home in the winter does, however, present a different set of challenges compared with selling in the traditional spring and summer real estate season. But there are some unique benefits to selling in the offseason too.

Here are a few questions you may be asking yourself as you start the process...

- Will anybody be looking to buy at this time of the year? In a year that's seen consistent low inventory (*i.e.*, *homes available for sale*), competitive situations, and rapidly increasing prices, new listings will be welcomed by buyers at any time of the year.

Last December, in Hasbrouck Heights, the average home sold in 19 days and for 108% of list price. With inventory this year trending even lower than 2020, it's shaping up to be another fantastically favorable season for sellers.

- What if it snows? Your home is staged and photographed, but the forecast calls for snow. What now? It's important to have contingency plans for minor, medium, or massive storms. A few flakes won't tend to deter folks from touring. If schools are canceled, you may want to wait for the storm to pass before listing your home, as the first week on the market is the most important chance to make an impression.

It's important to convert prospective buyers from seeing the house online to actually visiting with their agent in person. Regardless of the severity, make sure to keep walkways clear and safe for entry. Consider extra rubber

mats to protect delicate floors.

- Are holiday decorations appropriate? Holiday decorations are a great way to celebrate your family's unique traditions.

However, when your home is on the market, your goal is to appeal to the broadest possible range of prospective buyers. Don't let your tree, menorah, or nativity display become a distraction for someone who's trying to envision their family in this home next year.

Scented candles or strong holiday potpourri won't be of help either. The only thing you want buyers smelling when they tour your home is the inside of their masks.

- What about the yard? As mentioned before, safe walkways and entrances are paramount. The good news about selling in the winter is that you won't be agonizing over keeping your lawn tidy and green. Buyers will understand a yard that's on "hiatus," but this can be a great time to play up any outdoor entertaining spaces. Fire-pits and twinkle lights are welcome!

- How do I make my home look its best? In the dark winter months, more light is better.

This will be important both for listing photography, which is your home's first impression online, and for the experience buyers have touring your home.

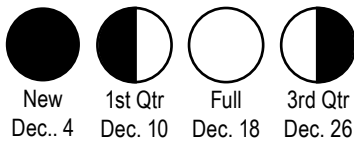
If you're working with a stager, make sure they know which rooms will require additional lighting. Use warm bulbs and ensure they match. Both make a difference for photography and in-person tours. Buyers want light!

If you're ready to create your customized winter listing plan, contact Mary Ellen Courtney, managing broker for our new office, Terrie O'Connor Realtors, The Gateway Group, Hasbrouck Heights, 201-288-0004.

She will arrange to have a uniquely qualified agent come and devise a plan to successfully position, price and market your home during any month of the year!

Mary Ellen Courtney is Broker Sales Manager, Terrie O'Connor Realtors -- The Gateway Group ###

In the Thomas Nast cartoon that first depicted Santa Claus with a sleigh and reindeer, he was delivering Christmas gifts to soldiers fighting in the U.S. Civil War. The cartoon, entitled "Santa Claus in Camp," appeared in Harper's Weekly on January 3, 1863. ###



## Cold Moon

The full moon appears on Saturday, December 18, 2021, at 11:37 p.m. and is called the "Full Cold Moon." (Mohawk).

According to "The Farmer's Almanac," this month the winter cold fastens its grip, and nights are at their longest and darkest.

This name is doubly fitting because December's full Moon shines above the horizon for a longer period of time than most full Moons.

Other names for this moon include "Full Long Night Moon" (*Mohican*), as it rises during the "longest" nights of the year, which are near the December winter solstice.

Other names that allude to the cold and snow include Drift Clearing Moon (*Cree*), Frost Exploding Trees Moon (*Cree*), Moon of the Popping Trees (*Oglala*), Hoar Frost Moon (*Cree*), Snow Moon (*Haida, Cherokee*), and Winter Maker Moon (*Western Abenaki*). When the Deer Shed Their Antlers (*Dakota*) and Little Spirit Moon (*Anishinaabe*).

The Native American Indians of the northern and eastern United States kept track of the seasons by giving a name to each recurring full moon. European settlers followed the custom.

In Europe, ancient pagans called the December full Moon the "Moon Before Yule," in honor of the Yuletide festival celebrating the return of the sun heralded by winter solstice. ###

*Silent Night was written in 1818, by an Austrian priest Joseph Mohr. He was told the day before Christmas that the church organ was broken and would not be prepared in time for Christmas Eve. He was saddened by this and could not think of Christmas without music, so he wanted to write a carol that could be sung by choir to guitar music. He sat down and wrote three stanzas. Later that night the people in the little Austrian Church sang "Stille Nacht" for the first time. ###*

*The modern Christmas custom of displaying a wreath on the front door of one's house, is borrowed from ancient Rome's New Year's celebrations. Romans wished each other "good health" by exchanging branches of evergreens. They called these gifts strenae after Strenia, the goddess of health. It became the custom to bend these branches into a ring and display them on doorways. ###*

## Probes Mail Delay Impact on IRS and Tax Refunds

Fear that latest systemic mail problems will adversely affect millions of Americans interacting with tax collection agency

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ-09), the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight, today asked the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for information to assess how systemic mail delays at the United States Postal Service (USPS) may impact IRS operations, tax filings and refunds for Americans.

"The latest systemic delays at the Post Office represent much more than a mere nuisance," said Rep. Pascrell. "These postal problems threaten to delay paychecks, vital provisions, life-saving medicines, and even Americans' tax refunds. Although tax season is months away, we must prepare now for how higher costs and slower service will impact the IRS and American taxpayers. There can be no excuse for refunds or filings to be adversely impacted. Meanwhile, I continue to urge full replacement of the failed leadership at the head of the Post Office – starting with Louis DeJoy."

"The Subcommittee on Oversight of the Committee on Ways and Means is trying to determine the impact of the new standards, which include increased time-in-transit standards, on the IRS and would appreciate your answers," Pascrell writes Commissioner Charles Rettig. "To what extent will delayed mail delivery impact the IRS (please include any estimates related to the expected delays), and what options, if any, are under consideration by the IRS to address potential delays?"

Since this postal crisis began, Rep. Pascrell has aggressively demanded accountability from USPS. On May 21, 2020, Pascrell wrote to USPS Inspector General Tammy Whitcomb demanding an investigation of turmoil at the USPS, stemming from a pattern of interference engineered by the Trump administration in its efforts to destabilize the post office. On August 14, 2020 Pascrell became the first member of Congress to call for Postmaster General Louis DeJoy and Trump to be investigated by a state criminal grand jury for their dismantling of the Post Office, making a criminal referral to New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal alleging Trump and DeJoy subverted state elections.

On January 25, 2021, Rep.

Pascrell became the first member of Congress calling on President Biden to fire the entire Postal Board of Governors sitting before his election for their silence and complicity in DeJoy's ongoing sabotage of postal operations. In February, Pascrell immediately praised the nominations by President Biden of the three new nominees to the USPS Board of Governors and on March 18, Pascrell and Reps. Gerry Connolly (D-VA-11) and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR-03) led over 50 House Democrats urging Biden to immediately remove the then-sitting USPS Board of Governors.

## Seek Probe Mail Delay Impact on Social Security

*Fears grow that systemic mail problems will hurt millions of seniors*

WASHINGTON, DC – Acting to protect seniors, Subcommittee on Oversight Chair Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ-09), Subcommittee on Social Security Chair John B. Larson (D-CT-01), and Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support Chair Danny Davis (D-IL-07), all members of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, today asked the Social Security Administration (SSA) to assess how the systemic mail delays at the United States Postal Service (USPS) may adversely impact Social Security operations and the processing of payments, applications, and appeals.

"SSA mails an estimated 350 million documents each year to the public, including to individuals receiving or applying for benefits... Individuals rely on these mailed documents to make important life decisions, such as how much to save and when to retire, and to meet deadlines for submitting information in support of benefit applications," the members write Acting Social Security Commissioner Kilolo Kijakazi.

Reps. Pascrell, Larson, and Davis have been leaders in Congress demanding protection of Social Security and reform of the SSA.

The three were the first members to demand Trump-appointed Commissioner Andrew Saul and Deputy Commissioner David Black be fired for their sabotage of Social Security. Acting on their calls, President Biden ousted Saul and Black on July 9. *Pascrell press release. ###*



# Rutherford

Commander John P. Chrzanowsit, Post 227 Commander, led the main service starting at the WWI Memorial Spire on Park Avenue. Taps was played by Matthew Branico. Upon conclusion, attendants moved to the various Memorials around Lincoln Park beginng with WWII, Korea/Vietnam, The Main and concluding near 9-11 Memorial where J. W. Crawford III, JD, Vice Admiral, US Navy Retired, Felician University President, provided final comments regarding recent conflicts. ###



# Carlstadt • Wood-Ridge

A Veterans Day Remembrance Ceremony was held Thursday, November 11, 2021, 11 a.m., at Veterans Park on Hackensack Street, Carlstadt. The ceremony was led by VFW Post 3149 Post Commander George Schrib and Chaplain Buddy Davis. The service began with an Opening Prayer and Salute to the Flag. Speakers included Carlstadt Mayor Robert Zimmerman, and Wood-Ridge Mayor Paul Sarlo and Councilman Ezio Altamura. The program concluded with the Benediction. An American Flag that flew in Afghanistan was presented to the Borough of Wood- Ridge. Photos by Dennis Kronyak Sr. ###



# Lodi

Veterans Day services were held in the Amphitheater with WWII Vincent Martorano, Adjutant of American Legion Post 136. After, patrons viewed the addition of 43 new photos and names added to the permanent display on Memorial Drive. Additionally, there was a dedication of the Purple Heart Memorial on the lawn in front of the Municipal Complex. The event was hosted by Lodi Police Department Community Relations Unit. ###



December 7, 1941, was a day that would live in infamy and thrust the United States of America into the second World War. This year, the 80th anniversary of the bombing on Pearl Harbor will be observed with special ceremonies on Tuesday, December 7, 2021. Officially known as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, it honors those who lost their lives during the attack by the Japanese on a US naval base in Hawaii in 1941.



# Wallington

Wallington Veterans Memorial Library held their groundbreaking service on November 11, 2021.

Through a generous arrangement with the members of the Wallington VFW, the Borough was able to secure property to construct a new 6,000 square foot public Library. The current JFK Memorial Library sits atop the Borough DPW garage.

While this facility has

served the community well, the new Library will provide for much needed meeting space and allow for more contemporary Library services.

Arcari + Iovino Architects designed the Library as a light-filled open space that can be easily reconfigured for a variety of uses. Dedicated spaces for children, young adults, quiet reading, and computer areas will allow The Library to expand its array of services

to the community. Aside from renaming the Library to honor the Veterans, there will be memorabilia displayed in the meeting room commemorating their contributions to our country.

This project is supported by funds from the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act, administered by the New Jersey State Library. Wallington was one of only a few communities selected in the first round of these grants. ###



Renderings provided by Arcari + Iovino Architects ###



Caryn Zambelli

were and listening to their wants was so instrumental in getting me to where I am today. As a lifelong resident of New Jersey, I take great pride in being a "Jersey girl" with an extensive knowledge of so many wonderful neighborhoods throughout the state. I have a sensitivity and understanding of the diverse needs of families and community. What's most important to me at the start of a relationship is conveying to you my genuine commitment to finding the dream home. There is no doubt that buying or selling a home is one of the most stressful times in one's life but working with someone that is patient and confident, guiding you through the process makes it both exciting and worthwhile. For all your real estate needs, please give me a call at 908-414-1560."

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