

The Gazette

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

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VOL. 20, No. 12

December 2023

★★★★★

Wreath from the 2023 Kip Center Annual Festival of Trees and Wreaths, a favorite tradition in the community, runs until December 9, 2023. Raffle tickets are 26 tickets for \$10. Large selection. The winning tickets will be pulled on December 9 at 2 p.m. For more information, call 201-460-1600. See page 11 for more photos. ###



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!

Support Ukraine Freedom

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Bringing Back the Old Style Italian Deli

Enjoy your Holidays. Let us do the cooking...

Christmas or New Year's Dinner Menu

	Spiral Ham or Roasted Turkey Breast
1/2 Tray	Eggplant Rollatini or Stuffed Shells
1/2 Tray	Sweet Potatoes or Mashed Potatoes
1/2 Tray	String Bean Almondine
1/2 Tray	Sautee Broccoli w/Garlic & Oil
12"	Antipasto
1 Pie	Choice of Apple/Pecan

Only \$299 Feeds 10-12 People

Christmas Day: Order by December 22 • Pick up Christmas morning before noon
New Years Day: Order by December 29 • Pick up New Years Day before noon

A La Carte Menu

12"	Antipasto	\$50
12"	Mozzarella Caprese Platter	\$45
1/2 Tray	Tossed Salad	\$35
1/2 Tray	Caesar Salad	\$35
1/2 Tray	Stuffed Mushrooms	\$50
1/2 Tray	Penne alla Vodka	\$45
1/2 Tray	Meatballs	\$55
1/2 Tray	Chicken Francese	\$55
	Seafood Salad by the pound	
	Octopus Salad by the pound	

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METROPOLITAN CAMPUS
TEANECK, N.J.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2



FLORHAM CAMPUS
MADISON, N.J.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

*2024 U.S. News & World Report collegiate rankings.

SEIZE THE MOMENT AND CHANGE YOUR WORLD™




Hasbrouck Heights Cub Scout Pack and Scouts BSA Troop 17 kicked off their annual Fall Scouting for Food over the past two weeks.

Thanks to the efforts of Pack 17 who distributed the flyers on Saturday, November 4, 2023, Troop 17 was able to go out on Saturday, November 11 and collect non-perishable donations.


In total, their Fall Scouting for Food drive collected over 275 bags of non-perishable donations for the Hasbrouck Heights Food Pantry. Additionally, they received donations from the neighboring towns of Wood-Ridge and Lodi. *Provided by Craig Birth, Scoutmaster. ###*





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L. Agent: Susan Zottarelli



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L. Agent: Susan Zottarelli



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L. Agent: Victoria Viola



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L. Agent: Carl Malaney

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Holiday Flea Market & Gift Fairs

Over 100 tables of really cool gifts items!



Weekends
**R fun at
JC events**

JCPROMOTIONS.INFO

SUNDAYS 9-4PM

Nov. 19 & Dec. 10
Clifton High School
333 Colfax Road

Nov. 26 & Dec. 17
Wayne PAL Building
1 PAL Drive, Wayne NJ

December 3
Bergenfield High Sch
80 So. Prospect Ave.

Free Admission

Shop O'Shea's for Gifts Home Decor & Accessories

Bill O'Shea's Florist & Gifts

John & Linda Kosakowski, Proprietors
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Jersey Tones
Doo Wop Music
December 2

Get your dancing shoes on!
American Legion Post 310,
100 Liberty Street, Little Ferry,
presents The Jersey Tones on
Saturday, December 2, 2023
starting at 7 p.m.
They specialize in Doo
Wop music, rock n' roll, 50s,
60s and 70s -- music the older
generation can appreciate.
Free event. Free food while
it lasts. No outside drinks al-
lowed. ###

HH Friends
Update

The Friends of the Has-
brouck Heights Library will
present "Story time with Santa"
on Thursday, December 14,
2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.
A holiday pop-up Book
and Jewelry Sale is tentatively
scheduled for Thursday, De-
cember 14, Friday, December
15, and Saturday, December 16.
Please reach out to the Library
for details.
The Friends are assembling
crafters to work on wreaths
and centerpieces for an event,
scheduled for the Spring of
2024. New crafters welcome!
A Taste of Hasbrouck
Heights will again be happen-
ing on April 23 at the Fiesta.
This event is a collaboration of
the Friends and the Chamber of
Commerce.
On November 1, the 2024
Friends of the Hasbrouck
Heights Library Membership
Drive started. Renewal forms
went out to current members,
but new members are always
welcome. Applications are
available in the Library. In
addition to supporting the
many activities of the Library,
membership has its perks, of-
fering discounts at many local
businesses. *Provided by Erica
Golle. ###*

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

MomLife Event
December 28

We invite moms of kids
ages 0-11 from any town to
join. Be encouraged. Connect.
Make a friend. Join MomLife!
Limited KidLife childcare
available by reservation only.
Monthly get togethers and
outings too. Please RSVP by
December 26. Event hosted
by Bible Baptist Church, 31
Passaic Avenue, Hasbrouck
Heights. For more info: has-
brouckhtsmomlife@gmail.com;
Fb – Hasbrouck Heights NJ
MomLife ###

Poker
Dec. 2

Bergen Engine One, Carl-
stadt Fire Department is host-
ing a Poker Night Fundraiser on
Saturday, December 2, 2023,
starting at 7 p.m. at Head-
quarters, 500 Madison Street,
Carlstadt (*Jefferson Street
entrance.*)
Features Texas hold'em
rules, regulations tables, li-
censed dealers, \$5,000 prize
pool (75+ *players*), champion
bracelet, chip bonus for early
registration, \$100 buy-in (*5,000
chips*) re-buys and add-ons.
Hot buffet and dessert in-
cluded. Free beer, soft drinks,
and coffee. Cash admission.
Check-in and dinner at 6
p.m. More information and
to register online go to: mike-
spokertables.com/upcoming-
events ###

TEB Noise
Complaint Line
201-288-8828
TEB Noise Office: 201-393-0399

Trout Fly Tying
Starts Jan. 16

East Jersey Chapter Trout
Unlimited is holding a FLY
TYING course for beginners
and advanced fishermen and
fisherwomen at Wayne Fire
House PLO#2 (*2 Alps Road/
970 Rt. 23*) at the intersection
of Alps Road and Route 23,
Wayne.
For a fee of \$75 this eight
week course is held on Tuesday
nights from 7 to 9:30 beginning
January 16, 2024. For begin-
ners, tools and material are
included in the fee.
Beginners will learn the
techniques and materials need-
ed to tie trout flies. Patterns will
include a selection of nymphs,
streamers, wet and dry flies.
Students will gain the basic
understanding that will catch
fish. To register call Doug
Penna 201-288-4409 or text
Joe Fusco at 201-739-4229 or
at the class. Instruction is by
experienced East Jersey Chap-
ter Trout Unlimited fly tiers.
*Provided by Bruce T. Halstater.
###*

Paint Party
January 7

American Legion Post 310
Auxiliary, 100 Liberty Street,
Little Ferry, will host Paint
your Favorite Glass on January
7, 2024, from 2 to 5 p.m. \$20
pp. Reservations required. No
outside drinks allowed. Call
Theresa at 201-522-7619. ###

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"In the old days, it was not called the Holiday Season; the
Christians called it 'Christmas' and went to Church; the Jews
called it 'Hanukkah' and went to Synagogue; the atheists went to
parties and drank. People passing each other on the street would
say 'Merry Christmas!' or 'Happy Hanukkah!' or (*to the atheists*)
'Look out for the wall!'" Dave Barry

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Order by Dec. 20 • Pick-up by 4 pm Dec. 24
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Mixed Antipasto Platter
CHOICE OF SEAFOOD
Shrimp with Garlic Sauce
Seafood Salad
CHOICE OF PASTA
Penne Vodka
Meat Lasagna
Baked Ziti
FINE FRESH MEATS
Filet Mignon Roast \$27.99*
Standing Rib Roast \$17.99*
Pork Roast \$5.99*
Pork Crown Roast \$5.99*
Rack of Lamb \$25.99*
* Per pound
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Shrimp Cocktail
Small (3 lb) \$49.99 / Large (6 lb) \$94.99
Shrimp in Garlic Sauce
Small (3 lb) \$34.99 / Large (6 lb) \$64.99
Stuffed Mushrooms w/Crab Meat 12.99 lb.
Stuffed Mushrooms
w/Spinach and Cream Cheese \$11.99 lb.
We'll be closed December 25 & 26, 2023
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more time to relax!
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W-R Senior Holiday Pasta Dinner Dec. 15

Wood-Ridge Mayor Paul Sarlo invites all Wood-Ridge senior citizens and Senior Club members to the Borough's 22nd Annual Holiday Pasta Dinner on Friday, December 15, 2023, 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Wood-Ridge Senior Center located on the corner of Highland Avenue and Hackensack Street.

Come join your neighbors for a night filled with fun, singing provided by our local Girl Scout and Brownie Troops, entertainment, holiday gift raffles and more!

Please call the Recreation Office at 201-939-7507 to make a reservation. Leave your name, telephone number and the number of people that will be attending with you.

The Senior Bus will be available to pick up and take home that night! ###

AWS Holiday Party Dec. 1

The American Wine Society, Meadowlands Chapter, is having their Annual Holiday Party, Friday, December 1, 2023, from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m., at Michael's Riverside in Lyndhurst, NJ.

Cost is \$70 for guests and includes full buffet dinner, soda and wine and feel free to bring your favorite bottle as well, if you wish.

This event helps raise funds for the American Wine Society Education Foundation, so we will have raffle baskets. There will be DJ music and a special performance by Phil Miuccio for this event.

Payment required by November 27 to reserve your seat. Limited seating available. For more information send email to: wineclub201@gmail.com and visit our AWS blog at www.awsmeadowlands.org for upcoming events. Cheers! ###

Free Lunch Saturday

The First Presbyterian Church of Moonachie for the "Free Lunch Saturday" program, will be held December 2, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. December lunch is Roast Loin of Pork (*while supplies last*).

We average 75+ meals each month, both inside and To-Go bags are available.

A grocery table is also set up for common staple items for those with a need (*pasta, sauce, cereal, rice, beans, soup, tuna, proteins sources, etc*). All donations are gladly accepted (*but please avoid glass jars*).

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. ###

Breakfast With Santa

The St. Anthony Council of the Knights of Columbus invites all children and the young at heart to their Annual Pancake Breakfast in the Fr. Patrick Morris Hall in the basement of the Assumption Church on Sunday, December 17, 2023, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Santa will be their guest of honor. The menu will be "all you can eat" pancakes, sausages, orange juice and coffee for the adults. The cost is \$10 per person; children 5 and under \$5.

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

AL Hosts Photos with Santa Dec. 9

The Lodi American Legion Auxiliary will again host free photos with Santa on Saturday, December 9, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Lodi American Legion Post 136, 41 Union Street, Lodi.

A professional photographer will take the photos, and participants will be able to take their photos home with them that day. There is no cost. Pre-registration is not required. Families are welcome. For more information call 201-264-4622 or email alaunit136lodinj@gmail.com *Provided by Margaret Frontera.* ###

WFD Breakfast With Santa

Wallington Fire Department, Park Row Hose Co. 3, will be hosting their annual Pancake Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 3, 2023, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, at the Wallington Civic Center, 24 Union Boulevard, Wallington.

Full home-cooked breakfast with pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, ham, hash browns, cakes, juice and coffee.

There will be pictures with Santa. Donations, \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids ages 4 to 12. Tickets are available at the door. ###

Toy and Gift Card Drive

RE/MAX Trading Places and Cory Waters is hosting a Toy and Gift Card Drive to benefit Hackensack Meridian Children's Health. Please drop off an unwrapped new toy from noon to 3 p.m., December 16, 2023, at 345 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights. Come see Santa and enjoy some refreshments.

They are also asking for gift cards to local restaurants or grocery stores to give to the families of children undergoing treatment at the hospital. For additional details please call the office at 201-288-5411 or Cory at 908-797-5745. ###

Having an Affair?

If your organization is having an event that is open to the public, we can help you tell "everybody" about it. Simply provide the following event details: name, date, times, cost, brief explanation of program features, etc., along with contact information. Send these details at least 45 days prior to the event to: fritz@hasbrouck-heights.com or drop them off at: **The Gazette Newspaper**, 345 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604. ###

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Entrées starting at **\$14.95**
Includes: 1 Appetizer, Entree, Coffee & Fresh Fruit

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Open 6 Days • Closed Mondays • **Lunch:** Tuesday-Friday 12-3
Dinner: Tuesday-Thursday 4-9:30 • Friday & Saturday 4-10:30 • Sunday 1-9

269 Hackensack St., Wood-Ridge • 201.933.4276
Reservations Requested • www.justinsristorante.com

Holiday Mixology December 1

55 Kip Center presents Holiday Mixology on Friday, December 1, 2023, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Kip Center. Cost is \$45 pp and includes cocktail tasting, light fare, Festival of Trees, 50/50, holiday gift baskets and entertainment. Must be 21 years old to attend. ###

Pet Photos w/Santa Dec. 10

Bring your pets down to American Legion Post 310, 100 Liberty Street, Little Ferry to take pictures with Santa just in time for the holidays.

Sunday, December 10, 2023, from 2 to 5 p.m. \$5 donation Any questions call 201-807-0470. ###

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE



Large Selection • Various sizes and prices
Saturday & Sunday 10 am to 10 pm
Mon. - Fri. 6 pm to 10 pm
Corner of Franklin and Terrace
Hasbrouck Heights



Hasbrouck Heights Men's Association
Proceeds Benefit HHMA Scholarship Fund
A Hasbrouck Heights holiday tradition for over twenty years.

Sergio's Missione
Italian cuisine • Eclectic atmosphere • Impeccable service

SUNDAY BRUNCH
Smashed Avocado Toast 16 • Breakfast Wrap 18
Pulled Pork Burrito 18 • Steak+Eggs 25 • Chicken & Waffles 20
Health Nut Breakfast Bowl 15 • Caesar Salad 13
Buttermilk Pancakes 16 • French Toast & Eggs 15
Eggs Benedict 15 • Omelette to order 15 • Eggs any style 12

SERGIO'S MISSIONE, 2 Mercer Street, Lodi
973-778-4545 • www.sergiosmissioneodi.com/
Brunch Every Sunday 10:30 am to 2 pm
Tues. - Thurs. 3:30 to 9:30 pm • Fri. - Sat. 4 to 11 pm • Sun. 3 to 9 pm
Dine-in • Takeout • Delivery (*UberEats/DoorDash/Grubhub*)
Catering • BYOB • Major CC accepted • Online reservations available

December 13, 2023 – January 1, 2024 • Holidays
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Drive High - Get a DUI

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201-288-5959

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 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 17 from 1 to 5 p.m., at 341 Hoboken Road, Carlstadt. Donation is \$8 for adults, children 12 and under are free.

For more information, call 201-939-9212 or go to: modelengineers.org ###

HHMA Christmas Tree Sale

The Hasbrouck Heights Men’s Association will be selling Christmas Trees this Holiday Season beginning Friday, November 24, 2023, at St. John the Divine, at the corner of Franklin and Terrace, Monday - Friday 6 to 10 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 10 to 10 p.m.

They will be carrying an array of trees of various sizes and prices. This sale has been a Hasbrouck Heights holiday tradition for over 35 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. ###

Holiday Gift Sale Dec. 3

FOCAS (*Friends of the County Animal Shelter, Inc.*) will be hosting a Special Holiday Gift Fair on Sunday, December 3, 2023, at the American Legion, 100 Liberty Street, Little Ferry, from Noon to 3 p.m. There will be refreshments, fabulous holiday gifts for pets and people on sale.

Let FOCAS put some holiday cheer in your holiday.

Donations benefit the FOCAS Angel Fund that provides medical care for sick, homeless and abandoned animals.

FOCAS was established in 1984 for the protection and preservation of animals. ###

**Knights of Columbus
Lodi Hall Rental**

Up to 175 Guests
Dance Floor • Full Bar
Kitchen • Catering Available

*Great Venue for Celebrations,
Weddings, Birthday Parties,
Anniversaries, Repasts, Meetings*

39 Washington Street, Lodi
Starting at \$525
Call Joe: 201-805-4576 or Brad: 201-376-3071

Community Chest Rutherford Appeal

Check your mail for the Community Chest of Rutherford’s Annual Fundraising letter.

“The Chest” asks for your donation so it can provide important funding to Rutherford organizations including Rutherford Social Service, Boy and Girl Scouts, Daisy Scouts, Rutherford Food Pantry, Cub Scouts, Meadowlands Museum, Rutherford Historic Preservation Society and Brownie Girl Scouts.

“All money raised in Rutherford remains in Rutherford to directly support Rutherford organizations. You can also donate (*via PayPal*) and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RutherfordCommunityChest

Rutherford’s Community Chest is 77 years young and began in the United States and continues in our town. Our volunteers are your neighbors.

The Chest is a 501(3)(c) charity registered in NJ. Thank you from the Community Chest of Rutherford. *Provided by Billy Neumann, President, Community Chest of Rutherford.* ###

HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH
92 Burton Ave, Hasbrouck Heights 201-288-6889
www.htlchhnjhasbrouckheights.com



Candlelight Lessons and Carols – 5 pm
*Prelude begins at 4:45 pm.
Nativity of our Lord with Holy Eucharist

December 31 – 10:30 am
First Sunday of Christmas
with Holy Eucharist and Carol Sing

Both in person and on Zoom, we welcome the new year and continue the celebration of Christmas. For the link to our Zoom services, email Pastor Susan at htlchhpastor@gmail.com.

Join Us for Christmas Services at
Christ First United Methodist Church
57 Burton Avenue, Hasbrouck Heights
www.facebook.com/cfumchh

Christmas Eve, December 24
6:15 p.m. Caroling on the Front Steps
7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary

First Night Service, December 31
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Buy-a-Ribbon

Feed the Hungry

**Donate \$10 for the
Center For Food Action**

*... and get a
Beautiful Red Ribbon
on “The Boulevard”
with your name on it!*

Your \$10 contribution will be used by the Center For Food Action to purchase food. The Center For Food Action is a non-profit food center that has served our area’s needy since 1976.

Donate \$50, and your contribution will provide a special breakfast and a traditional dinner this Christmas or Hanukkah for a family in our neighborhood. Special ribbon embellishments will denote your generosity. Corporate contributions of \$100 or more will receive a unique red and gold ribbon.

Even I’ll take one!

**Corpus Christi Church
Christmas Mass Schedule**

Corpus Christi Church: 260 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights
Corpus Christi Chapel: 215 Kipp Avenue (*entrance through school*)
Parish Center: 201-288-4844 • <http://corpuschristiuh.org>

Christmas Eve, December 24
4:00 p.m. – Chapel
4:15 p.m. – Church
12 Midnight – Church

Christmas Day, December 25
8:00 a.m. – Church
10:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m. – Chapel

New Year’s Day, January 1
9:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m. - Church

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It is our prayer that you will join us for one or all of these times of worship and fellowship. We pray also this Advent Season would be for you a time to rediscover how much you are loved by God in Jesus Christ.

December 3

- **10 a.m.** First Sunday in Advent - "Miracle of the Moment" - Finding hope in God's timing. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper.
- Jello-Fellowship Hour. This year again we will gather to share our favorite Jello recipes. Last year we had a lot of fun sharing memories and America's favorite jiggy food. Invite a friend to come have fun!
- **5 p.m.** We will gather to light the Garden of Lights for the first time. Each tree will contain ornaments with the names of those who we want to honor or remember and the light they have brought to our lives and the world. Hot chocolate will be served.

December 10

- **10 a.m.** Second Sunday in Advent - "Miracle of the Message" - Seeking peace in God's message to the world.

December 17

- **10 a.m.** Third Sunday in Advent - "Miracle of the Method" - Celebrating joy in the ways that God works in and among us.

December 21

- **6:30 p.m** Longest Night Worship - A time to gather, slow down a seek the heart of God. This is a service for those who struggle during this time of year, whether it is mourning the loss of a loved one, the rush of the season or some other reason, join us as we wait for the presence of God to illuminate our darkness.

December 24

- **10 a.m.** Fourth Sunday in Advent - "Miracle of the Manger" - Remembering the love that caused the God of universe to step out of time and space to be with His creation.
- **5:30 p.m.** Christmas Eve Candlelight - Family friendly candlelight service celebrating the Light of the World who came to seek and save the lost.

December 31

- **10 a.m.** Christmas Hymn Sing - A time to sing our favorite Christmas carols one more time and hear the stories of their origins.

Heights Friendly Neighbors Kick Off Annual Fund Drive

The members of the Friendly Neighbors will officially begin their annual campaign on Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 2023. It will continue through New Year's Day.

This charitable organization has been serving the residents of Hasbrouck Heights for 84 years, beginning their

Toys for Tots

Lodi American Legion Post 136 will host a Marine Corps Reserve "Toys for Tots" toy drive this holiday season.

Drop off new, unwrapped toys or monetary donations to buy new toys at: American Legion Post 136, 41 Union Street, Lodi, NJ 07644, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday between 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., (or call to set up a drop-off time).

Contact: Howie Mosher: 551-404-3622 or Sue and Jon Vomero: 551-265-9560 or Post 136: 973-614-0100.

Make checks payable to American Legion Post 136, with "Toys for Tots" in the memo portion of the check.

- About 40 Police Departments are also participating in the "Toys for Tots" program with a collection date of December 18. Contact your Police Department about participation. ###

Toy Drive Nov. 25-Dec.2

Hasbrouck Heights Green Team (www.hhgreenteam.org/), in collaboration with Second Chance Toys (secondchancetoys.org) is collecting plastic toys with no missing parts (*parts must be attached*) and functioning batteries. Absolutely no plush toys.

Drop off November 25 to December 2, 2023 at: 314 Washington Place, 312 Columbus Avenue or 250 Lawrence Avenue, Hasbrouck Heights.

Goal is to keep plastic toys out of landfills by donating them to children in need. ###

Pray for Peace

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service to the community during the Great Depression. They work to maintain the anonymity of their clients in order to serve them with dignity.

We received the following letter from one of our long time donors during our campaign and we have decided to share a portion of that letter with you. "I admit that when I saw the story in **The Gazette Newspaper**, I did briefly (*and selfishly*) think, "It's been a tough year financially. Can I afford this?"

Then I quickly realized that if I was having a less than stellar year, imagine what a hard time those families you support in HH are having! So here's my annual gift for those less fortunate than me."

This person no longer lives in the state, but out west. We too, must remember the 10 families we support with 13 children and disabled adult children they care for.

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 it to: Elsie Sternbach, 133 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ, 07604. You can also drop it in Elsie's mail slot in the front door. Thank you and have blessed holidays. ###

Lessons and Carols December 8

The public is invited to join the Community of God's Love for a program of Lessons and Carols on Friday, December 8, 2023, at 7 p.m.

In this service, participants listen to Scripture readings followed by carols or other songs which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the call to share the Good News.

This program will take place at Visitation House, 70 West Passaic Avenue, Rutherford. Light refreshments will be served. Questions? Call 201-935-0344 or email thecgl@live.com ###

HH School Holiday Concert

The Hasbrouck Heights Jr./Sr. High School Holiday Concert is Wednesday, December 20, 2023, 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. ###

Blue Chip Chorus December 3

On Sunday, December 3, 2023, the Wood-Ridge Historical Society will be hosting their annual Holiday program featuring the Blue Chip Chorus (bluechipchorus.com).

The program will begin at 1 p.m. at the Wood-Ridge Senior Center. A light lunch will be served after the program. ###

Assumption Christmas Concert Dec. 10

The Adult and Children's Choir of the Assumption Church in Wood-Ridge will hold its Annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 10, 2023. The concert will be held in the Church at 2 p.m.

It features the Assumption Choir directed by Gabe Valle, Director of Sacred Music.

All who enjoy good traditional Advent Music are encouraged to attend. It is hoped that the program will bring back memories of joyful experiences with your families and friends. ###

Festival of Lessons and Carols Dec. 10

St. Margaret of Cortona Parish in Little Ferry will host their Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 10, 2023, at 3 p.m.

With anticipation of the Christ Child during the season of Advent, the Parish Choirs will present songs of the season, along with audience participation. The event will spotlight other choral selections. The Church is located at the corner of Liberty Street and Chamberlain Avenue, Little Ferry. Handicap accessible.

For more information, call Eileen at 201-843-1097. ###

Corpus Christi Christmas Events

Corpus Christi Church will host two events for this holiday season.

- On Saturday, December 9, 2023 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel will be an Advent Carol Musical Drama presented by the Xavier Company.

- On Sunday, December 17, 2023, at 7 p.m., in the Church, will be a program of Blue Christmas.

Contact: 201-288-4833 or <https://www.corpuschristihh.org/ccp/> ###

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It has been long observed that when we praise God in song, we pray twice. The music ministry at Corpus Christi Parish in Hasbrouck Heights is seeking more voices. Do you like to praise the Lord with the gift of your voice? Your presence can add so much to the liturgies of this Catholic worship community. The ministry is especially looking for those who can contribute to the upcoming Christmas liturgical celebrations.

If you would like to be a part of this very important ministry, please call music director, Joanna Kowalska, at 201-421-0900. ###

PRAYER TO THE
BLESSED VIRGIN

(Never known to fail) Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother, Oh, Holy Mary, Mother Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are some that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal.

You who gave me the gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me, I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine.

The person must say this prayer three consecutive days. After three days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted. N.M. ###

Pray for Peace

Mass for Life January 19

On Friday, January 19, 2024, as the March for Life is held in Washington, DC, the members of the Rosary Confraternity of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 127 Paterson Avenue, Wallington, invite all parishioners and friends to join us at a 6 p.m. Mass for Life.

For additional information, please contact Sue Stroosnyder at 973-777-4864. ###

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Holidays at Skylands Manor

Enjoy the sparkle and spirit of the magical season at the Annual Holiday Open House event sponsored by the NJBG/Skylands Association, at Skylands Manor in the NJ Botanical Gardens, Ringwood, November 30 through December 3, 2023.

The Manor will be decorated floor to ceiling for "A Holly Jolly" for a warm and welcoming start to the holiday season with a totally different look every year! Gift Shop and Holiday Café, too.

• November 30 to December 3 (Thursday-Sunday), 10 a.m. to 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. \$12/adults; \$10/seniors and students; \$7/children 6-12; under 6 free.

• November 30 and December 1 (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 2 (Saturday), 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. **Evening Reception.** The Manor will be yours for a leisurely stroll with champagne, light refreshments and valet parking. Reservations required. \$50/members; \$55/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. ###

Little Ferry Coat Drive

New Jersey Cares Coat Drive will be held until December 28, 2023.

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. ###

Keep Fire Hydrants Cleared of Snow

Area Fire Departments ask that when it snows, residents and businesses should make an effort to keep fire hydrants clear and accessible. ###

Community Tree Lightings

Carlstadt will host a Winter Festival at the Village Green, on November 25, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The tree lighting will follow.

The **Hasbrouck Heights** Annual Tree Lighting at The Circle will be held immediately after the Annual Holiday Parade (which starts at 7 p.m.) on November 24, 2023. There will be plenty of hot cocoa and snacks. Santa will be available in the TD Bank lobby. Bring your camera. ###

Little Ferry's Tree Lighting & Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus on December 1, at 6 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus, along with their elves, will be available for visits and photos from 6 to 9 p.m., so don't forget to bring your camera and holiday wish list for special North Pole delivery! ###

Lodi will host its Annual Tree Lighting on Friday, December 1, 2023, starting at 7 p.m., at Borough Hall. Holiday music will be provided by the Lodi HS Band and Choir.

Rutherford will hold their Tree Lighting following the Parade on Saturday, November 25 on Park Avenue at dusk.

South Hackensack will hold their annual Tree Lighting on Friday, December 1, 2023.

Wallington will hold their Holiday Festival and Tree Lighting on December 2, 2023, from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Civic Center on Union Boulevard.

Wood-Ridge Annual Tree Lighting is on November 24, 2023, at Veterans Park, starting at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served. There will be a visit from a Special Guest.

Bring a new, unwrapped toy to make a child's holiday special and receive a raffle ticket for a prize basket donated by local merchants.

Wood-Ridge Assumption Church Christmas Tree and Nativity Lighting, Saturday, December 2, 2023 following the 5:30 p.m. Mass. There will be Christmas Carols, hot cocoa and treats. All are welcome. ###

Annual Christmas Delaware River Crossing

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 10, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (actual crossing at 1 p.m.). Cost is \$9 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5-11, free for children younger than 5. Family rate (2 adults and 2 children) is \$25.

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

The Chistmas Day crossing is Monday, December 25, 2023, from noon to 3 p.m. (actual crossing at 1 p.m.). Free.

Additional details:

- Reenactors may register online. 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. Directions 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 Ten Crucial Days related activities, the Trenton Downtown Association hosts several events during its annual Patriots Week festivities, December 26th – 31st. In addition, Princeton Battlefield Society will be hosting their annual "Experience the Battle of Princeton Event," January 8, 2024, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• Drones are not permitted at these events.

• For more information go to: www.ushistory.org/washingtoncrossing/ ###

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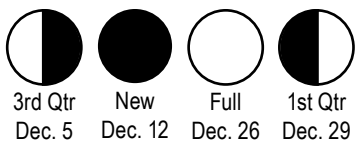
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Cold Moon

The “Full Cold Moon.” (*Mohawk*). appears on Tuesday, December 26, 2023, at 7:33 p.m. Boxing Day and the First Day of Kwanzaa! This also means that it will be high and full in the sky on Christmas, for the appearance of a full Moon on Christmas Day.

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*).

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. 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. ###

Moon Folklore

If a snowstorm begins when the Moon is young, it will cease at moonrise. ###

Cancelled Stamps

The Leisure Club of Hasbrouck Heights collects cancelled stamps. Trim the stamps to 1/4 inch around the stamps. Old envelopes and postcards are also being collected. If envelopes, postcards etc., are more than 40 years old, do not cut off the stamps, but save the whole envelope/ postcard. The stamps can be dropped off: **The Gazette Newspaper**, 345 Boulevard, Suite 5, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604. ###

Cash Raffle Dec. 11

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 Parish Christmas Party on Sunday, December 10, 2023, the winning tickets will be pulled at 3 p.m.

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. Tickets are a \$5 donation.

Tickets are on sale now. Checks are to be made payable to Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. Please place your check or cash with the completed ticket stub(s) in an envelope marked ROSARY CONFRATERNITY CASH 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 7, 2023.

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

If you have any questions or wish to purchase tickets, please contact Diane at 201-290-7655 or MSH Rectory at 2973-778-7405. ###

Cold Weather Tip
Be sure to turn off your exterior water faucet.

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.
- 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.

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Kip Center 30th Annual Festival of Trees, Wreaths and Centerpieces

The Annual Festival of Trees and Wreaths, a favorite tradition in the community, runs from until December 9, 2023.

The Kip Center Festival of Trees fundraiser, is the perfect venue to enjoy a beautiful holiday display of trees, wreaths, and centerpieces that are decorated by local individuals, organizations, businesses, artists, children, etc.

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



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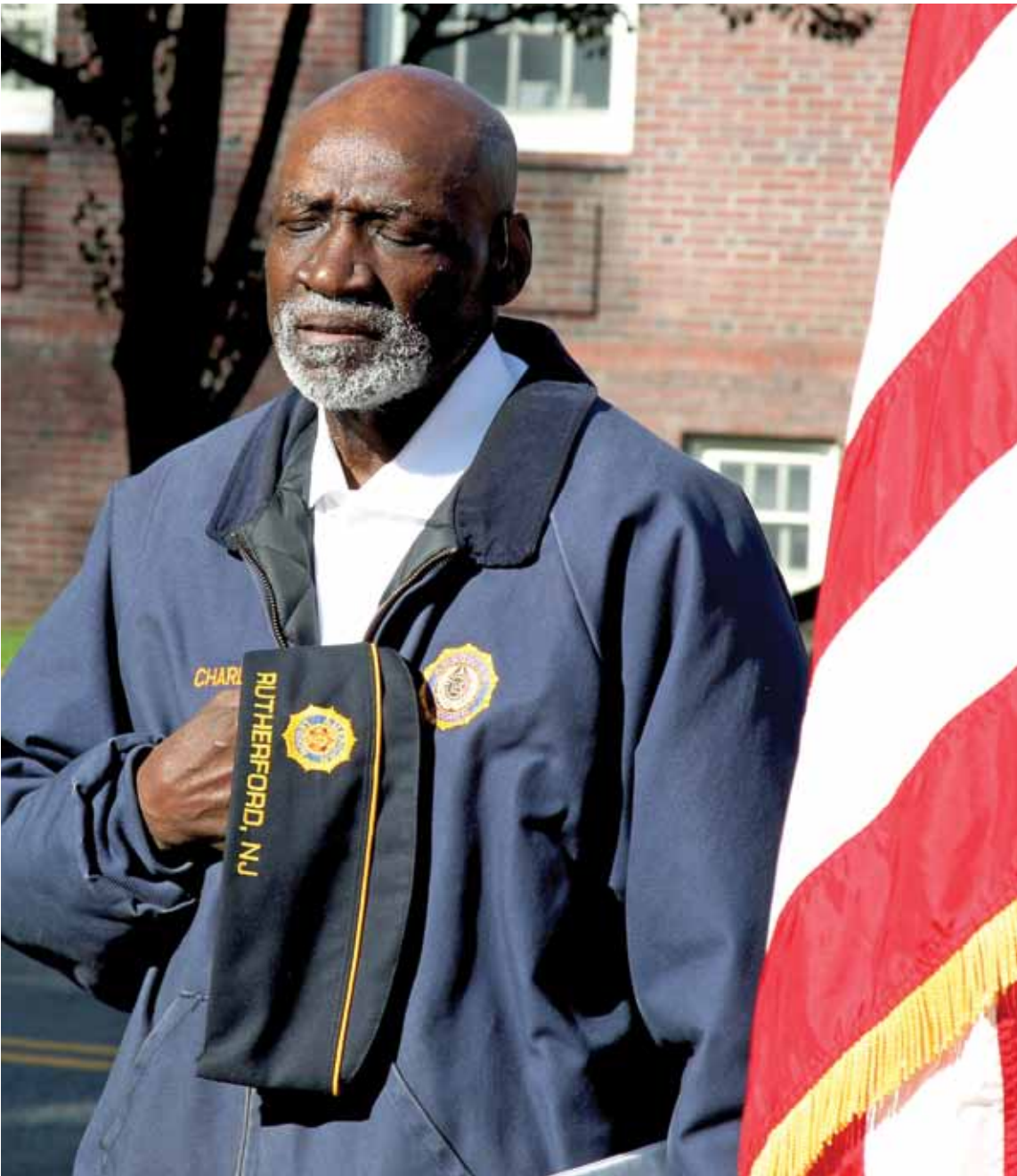
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"Be Present is one of a kind for shopping and gathering and my hope is for you to feel the inspiration!" Carla Marina

Rutherford Veterans Day Service



As the Church bells rang at 11 a.m. on November 11, 2023, Charles Gunn, Murray Hodge American Legion Post 453 Commander, began the main service starting at the WWI Memorial Spire on Park Avenue. Comments were made by local officials. Taps was played by Evan Tortora. Upon conclusion, attendants moved to the various monuments around Lincoln Park beginning with WWII, Korea/Vietnam, Spanish American War (*The Maine*) and concluded at the Civil War memorial with a prayer. At each station, pertinent commentaries written by Rutherford High School 11th Grade students were read. ###



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 82nd anniversary of the bombing on Pearl Harbor will be observed with special ceremonies on Thursday, December 7, 2023. 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.



W-R Lions Welcome LEO Club Officers

At their October 19, 2023 meeting, Wood-Ridge Lions invited the officers of the Wood-Ridge High School LEO Club, which they sponsor. LEO Clubs are a youth organization of Lions Clubs International. LEO Clubs encourage youths to develop leadership qualities by participating in social service activities. Although the LEO Club was functioning for over a year, it finally obtained its official Charter this June.

LEOs in attendance (*in photo l-r*) were Jerry Rivera (*Treasurer*), Jazlynn Mercado (*Secretary*), Jair Argueta-Ramos (*President*), Krishna

Patel (*Vice-President*) and Mrs. Lucia DiNapoli (*Teacher Advisor*). A teacher from the school is required to act as Advisor, and Mrs. DiNapoli did a commendable job in getting this program started, and to actively continue. Wood-Ridge Lion Bob Valenti, who assisted in helping this Club to get chartered, continues to be the Lions Club Liaison. Many of the Lions at the meeting contributed their reasons for wanting to be a Lion, as well as noting many of the projects, fund-raisers, and charity organizations that the

club supports. Each LEO officer sat with their Lion Officer counterpart at the dinner table. The Lions, in the meantime, were informed that the LEO Club will continue to grow as more students are showing interest in joining. Plans are now being made to have a get-together in the near future to include all of the Wood-Ridge High School LEOs. This very special evening was held at Bistro 107 in Moonachie, where the Lions conduct their meetings. *Provided by Dennis Brubaker, Secretary, W-R Lions Club. ###*



The Woman's Club of Carlstadt participated in the Walk Together for Domestic Violence on Saturday, October 28, 2023, sponsored by the Center for Hope and Safety. The center is dedicated to assisting Bergen County victims and survivors of domestic violence and their children. *Picture (l-r) Diane DeBiase, Jill Hediger, President, Janet Drogo and Dawn Carrillo. ###*



On November 9, 2023, The Woman's Club of Carlstadt donated assorted breakfast items and desserts at the Paramus Veterans Home for their Veterans Day celebration. Pictured from left are Janet Drogo, Marianna "Sini" Joseph, Volunteer Services Assistant and Carol Dalessandro, Civic Engagement and Outreach Chair. *###*



Wallington Knights Donate to Felician School for Exceptional Children

On October 8, 2023, the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Knights of Columbus Council #3644 in Wallington, formally made a donation to the Felician School for Exceptional Children in Lodi. Current Grand Knight,

Troy Steiger, along with Past Grand Knights Khaldoun Androwis, Ronald Stroosnyder and Alan Prontiker, presented a check in the amount of \$2,040.43 to Sister Mary Timothy Ruszala of the Felician Sisters. The Knights of Council

#3644 are proud to support the efforts of the Felician Sisters and are committed to serving the Catholic community whenever and wherever possible. (l-r) Khaldoun Androwis, Troy Steiger, Sister Mary Timothy Ruszala, Alan Prontiker and Ronald Stroosnyder. *###*



Thanksgiving Luncheon

On November 8, 2023, over 100 members gathered at the Hasbrouck Heights Senior Center for the annual Thanksgiving Luncheon sponsored by the Costa Memorial Home. The luncheon was prepared and served by the Market Basket of Wyck-off. The delicious menu consisted of Turkey, which was moist and tender. The trimmings were stuffing, sweet potato, mashed potatoes, gravy, string beans, glazed carrots, cranberry sauce, salad and rolls. All this was followed by cake and coffee. President June Raymond, on behalf of the members, thanked Vickie Costa and her family for their generosity for this great luncheon. This Costa Family has been doing this for many years. *Provided by Gladys Gamble. ###*



On Election Day, November 7, 2023, the Carlstadt Women's Club sponsored a Veterans Luncheon held at First Presbyterian Church Hall. The Carlstadt Republican Club donated 10 lunch tickets to the Paramus Veterans Home. *Photos by Dennis Kronyak Sr. ###*





The Carlstadt Public School 2023 Recycling Poster Contest Winners were recognized on October 18, 2023. First Place winners were: Kindergarten, Samantha Daniello, 1st Grade, Alessandra Drejaj, 2nd Grade, Mia Behr, 3rd Grade, Eliana Ortiz, 4th Grade, Ladii Colon, 5th Grade, Cali Ricciardi, 6th Grade, Ryan Ruff, 7th Grade, Addison Hansen and Ozmeiry Reyese and 8th Grade, Mariela Gonzalez. The overall winner was Ladii Colon whose design will be the cover of the Carlstadt Recycling Calendar. Top place winners received gift cards. Officials include Mayor Robert J. Zimmermann, Recycling Committee Chairperson Denise Murray, Teacher Mary Anderson and Principal Kenneth Foy. *Photo by Dennis Kronyak Sr. ###*

The Great Chili Cook-off

On October 7, 2023, from 1 to 5 p.m., Nam Knights Parent Chapter, 197 Washington Avenue, Carlstadt, held NK Bull's Memorial Chili Cook Off.

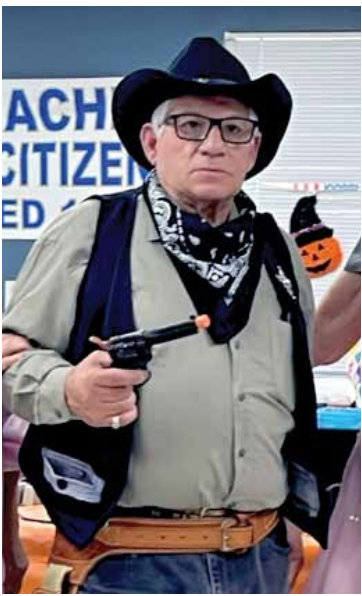
There was live music, food and beverages. Donation was \$10. Children under 15 free. Trophies were awarded for Judge's Choice and People's Choice.

Participants had to make and heat at least four gallons of chili. No electric was available. Carlstadt Engine 2 participated. *Photos by Dennis Kronyak Sr. ###*



On October 29, 2023, the Wood-Ridge Fire Department retired badge #21 in honor of FF James J. Bartlett. The program began with the Pledge of Allegiance by Assistant Chief Cribben, God Bless America was sung by FF Phil Miuccio, Prayer by Chaplain Nick Valdez, MC was Ex-Chief Thomas Bischoff Jr., there were family introductions with remarks by Chief Ken Schulz, Christopher Doris and Pamela Bartlett. The display was unveiled with ceremonial bagpipes & drum by Lt. Ronald Phillips Jr., FF Daniel O'Beirne and FF Kesley Saul. *Photos by Dennis Kronyak Sr. ###*

Scenes from the Moonachie Senior Club's Halloween Party. *Provided by Pat Vlacanich. ###*



Historically Speaking

By James J. Halloran



The North Pole Crew

While it is well known that Santa's Christmas Eve sleigh ride is a solo event, he has a crew at Santa's Village, that work year-round, to help Santa to keep his appointed rounds.

They are known as Christmas Elves. These diminutive folk have existed before the coming of good St. Nick. In Norse mythology they are the Alfar or Huldufolk "Hidden Folk." They appear to be distantly related to the Kobolds of Germany, the Brownies of Scotland and the Leprechauns

of Ireland.

In Norse mythology they were protectors of families and played pranks on bad people. One prank is to give that person a case of hiccups.

The exact number of elves in Santa's Village is not known. Santa regularly meets with the heads of all departments of his operation. The six department heads are:

• **Shinny Upatree:** The head elf and second only to Santa in running Santa's Village. He and Santa chose the secret location of Santa's Vil-

lage. He is considered the oldest and wisest of all the elves.

• **Alabaster Snowball:** His department maintains the Naughty and Nice List. The department receives information from many sources. Chief among them is the "Elf on a Shelf." How the information is transmitted is known only to the elves. It is always kept up to date.

• **Bushy Evergreen:** Heads up the toymaking department. He is credited with inventing the toymaking machine. How this machine works is proprietary. No patents have ever been filed. Letters to Santa requests also come through this department. The staff wrap all outgoing presents and add names of recipients.

• **Sugarplum Mary:** Mary's department handles the sweets and treats. The kitchen staff prepare all traditional holiday treats and create new items from time to time. Mrs. Claus has the final say on this.

• **Pepper Minstix:** He and his staff have kept the secret location of Santa's Village, near the North Pole, hidden from all seekers. Even the CIA and Britain's MI-6, with their spy satellites, have yet to find the location.

• **Wunorse Openslae:** He is head of the transportation department. He is credited with designing Santa's sleigh. He and his staff maintain the sleigh and oversee the loading of presents. They have developed the loading system of "first in, last out." This department also cares for the reindeer. Reindeer are recruited from Lapland, Finland.

The above names have been translated from elfish, as they would otherwise be unpronounceable.

Santa meets regularly with the Toymakers Guild to discuss any issues with the elves. The elves are given the time off from Christmas Day to January 7 and other times during the year.

Santa says "It takes a village to make his mission a success!"

We wish everyone Happy Holidays and a healthy New Year. ###

"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; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were, all, my business. The deals of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!"

Charles Dickens.



Real Estate Insight

By Mary Ellen Courtney

History Before the Internet

We recently had a webinar in our office that was conducted by Terrie O'Connor's training staff. It was another in a series designed to boost our agents' use of Internet technologies, introducing in-house training programs to enhance their use of online research and marketing.

And it brought home to me - a nearly 40 year industry veteran - the fact that the Internet has become probably the single most powerful business tool available in real estate. It changed, in myriad ways, how real estate sales are done today.

Let me offer a little perspective so that those of you reading can understand how things worked way back when I started in the field.

During my first year in the business, which was in the mid-1980s, the Internet was in its infancy. In order to see properties for sale, we didn't search listings in a computer - nobody had one then; we waited with baited breath each week for the MLS books to arrive. The books were like fat volumes from an encyclopedia (*another relic of the past*) and you were supposed to guard them with your life.

In fact, agents were sternly warned that allowing the general public access to the "Book" could result in a \$500 fine. MLS information was sacred and secret; real estate professionals of old were the exclusive custodians of that information and we held it tight to the vest so that prospective buyers and sellers had to come seek us out. For the 'Word.'

The truth is, that for literally hundreds of years real estate agents controlled basically 90% of the transaction. As the gate keepers of information, we'd listen to what buyers were looking for and then provide them with a suggested list of homes to view; they had to rely solely on us to find them a property.

OMG, have things changed since then!! That's because, today, most of the time it's the exact opposite that occurs - buyers provide us now with a list of properties they want to be shown. Buyers are now empowered to freely look at properties at their leisure, at home, in their pajamas.

Back in the early 90s, when the World Wide Web was becoming accessible to the general public, we real estate professionals were still marketing our services and listings through classified ads in newspapers and specialized industry magazines. For decades, classified ads had kept newspapers solvent and real estate ads made up a large share of that ad revenue.

But as newspaper publishers increased their prices for classified and display ads, real estate brokerages turned to other, more cost-effective online service providers. We brokers quickly figured out that online exposure was much broader and much more economical than anything the newspapers could offer.

Of course, the most noticeable change brought by the Internet to real estate in general is, as I said, how people shop for a home. But today there's so much more.

Realtors are beginning to experiment with drones for giving an over-view of a street and aerial views of homes. Video is replacing 'virtual tours' because it can give a more realistic view.

We use FaceTime to walk through a home with our out-of-the-area buyers. We can get documents signed on our tablets or smart phones, on and on...

And to think, back in my day, fax machines didn't exist until a few years after I started practicing real estate...

Overall, though, I see real estate agents reacting well to the increased online presence in their business, getting more involved with technology to meet changing consumer habits.

And I think that the Internet will continue to add more transparency and easier access to information about properties, agents, data and a multitude of other positive things. In fact - my antediluvian origins, notwithstanding - I'm actually excited about these new innovations. They're, after all, inevitable. There's no stopping the march of progress...

Thinking of buying or selling? For expert guidance, contact Mary Ellen Courtney, Broker-Manager at Terrie O'Connor Realtors' Gateway Group, 201-288-0004. She and her professional team work hard to insure maximum results with minimum stress! ###

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Artful Thinking

By Artie Maglionico • Lodi Historian

A Story of Christmas Part Two

Thanksgiving morning found the twins in the living room sprawled out in front of the TV set, with Rusty the dog nestled between them of course, watching the Macy’s Thanksgiving day Parade.

Their parents and Grandmother were in the kitchen preparing the table for the Thanksgiving celebration.

The Turkey was in the oven, the trimmings, prepared the night before, were in the refrigerator with the desserts hidden in the back out of the twins' reach.

That didn’t keep the girls from attempting to rendezvous their way into the fridge and pilfer a cupcake or two while no one was looking. Their attempt, predictable, was doomed to fail since someone was always looking. They had to settle for licking the whipped cream off of the two beaters once their Mom removed them from the electric hand mixer. No matter since they both knew that the best was yet to come.

By the end of the day the girls were already succumbing to a desert hangover. They nose dived into bed and were heard by their Grandmother to have whispered to one another the famous Last words “Never Again!” Grandma whispered back “Until tomorrow.”

The next morning the effects of overindulging on cup cakes, cookies, ice-cream and Pumpkin Pie topped with whipped cream had worn off and the thought of not having to attend school pushed them to the edge of euphoria. They felt refreshed and noticeably giddy. After all they were standing at the threshold of their favorite time of the year...the season of Christmas.

No sooner did they gulp down their corn flakes they put on their winter gear and raced out the kitchen door not stopping until they reached the home of their best friend, little Audie, who lived a few blocks away. Rusty the dog stayed home much to his uproarious dismay.

“Audie” shouted the twins in melodic harmony. Audie looked down from his bedroom window. He then motioned to them that he’d be right down. As he sped out of the front door still buttoning his Mackinaw his Mother followed behind him carrying his woolen scarf and mittens. “Don’t forget these Audie” she said as she handed them to him with a half-smile.

The twins waved at her as they headed downtown which was already bursting with the hustle and bustle of Christmas.

Main Street was transformed into a living Christmas card. Frosted store front windows were decorated with all the seasonal displays from Santa and his reindeer carrying a sleigh full of cheerfully wrapped presents, Christmas trees dressed in tinsel and candy canes, miniature Christmas villages encircled by a toy train and a life size Nativity scene that stood at the end of the busy Main Street for the world to see.

Audie and the twins became swept away in a Christmas dreamland. They were so taken by all of the magic that embraced them that they saw fit to join the carolers in singing "Deck the Halls." All the twins and Audie knew was the Fa La La part. They faked the rest.

Their trip down Main Street set the tone for the entire holiday season. The twins and Audie took Christmas with them wherever they went until each day became a celebration unto itself.

Soon it was time to purchase the family Christmas tree. The twins sat in the back seat of the family car with Rusty the dog fidgeting next to them sticking his head in and out of the open window like a child playing peekaboo. Now you see me now you don’t.

The trees were being sold in an open lot a few miles away from their home at an outdoor shopping center called Frankie’s Market. Rusty the dog dashed out of the car before the twins could fasten the chain to his collar. They chased him around the lot while their mom and dad searched for a suitable Christmas tree. Behind them they heard someone shouting “Hey you kids get that dog out of there!” They turned around to find Rusty the dog "marking his territory" on what had to be the worse looking tree on the lot.

The twins stood helplessly by as the proprietor shouted in disbelief.

The twin’s parents ran to the scene in an effort to chase Rusty away. Too late!

"Is this your dog?" asked the angry proprietor. "I’m afraid so," replied Dad.

"Then you just bought yourself a Christmas tree!"

Once at home not even Mom's elaborate decorations enhanced by soft blue light bulbs could add life to that feeble looking tree. When the blue lights were turned on the tree resembled a chest x-ray. All the

family could do was laugh and thank Rusty the dog for picking out that year’s Christmas tree.

That Sunday night, a week before Christmas, the east coast was hit with a snow storm. It snowed hard enough to bring everything to a grinding halt and, much to every child’s delight, the cancelling of school. By 9 a.m. the next morning the Arnot Street hill was alive with sleigh riders including the twins, Audie, Rusty the Dog and those kids from Westervelt Place.

The twins set their Flexible Flyer down at the top of the hill next to Johnny Rannou who was heading down, two on a sled, with his friend Rocco behind him.

"We'll race you down," said Rannou.

"Okay" replied Valerie. "Prepare to lose!"

Valerie told Sarah to sit behind Audie since she was the stronger of the two and could give the initial push to get a fast start.

They raced down the hill, sled to sled, as if they were shot out of cannon. The pace was so fast that Rusty the Dog could hardly keep up with them.

Just then, as if from out of nowhere, a car came skidding out of control at the Westervelt Place intersection. A young boy was waving at Valerie and Rannou as to the approaching danger. Rannou made a hard left turn, pushing Valerie onto the sidewalk. Her sled turned completely around and slammed full force into a telephone pole. Audie was thrown from the sled and slammed, head first, into the pole. Audie laid there motionless as Valerie, Sarah and Rusty the Dog ran to their friend’s side.

The twins began to cry as poor Audie remained unresponsive. Soon Rannou, Rocco and the other kids from Westervelt Place gathered around.

"Is he alright?" asked Rannou. The twins were speechless and visibly concerned. Valerie placed Audie’s hand in hers in an attempt to comfort him.

Lou, the owner of the corner store, arrived at the scene. He then called out to his wife who stood by the door, to call an ambulance. Valerie, in tears, attempted to hold Audie in her arms. "Don’t move him," said Lou, "wait for the ambulance."

By then both Audie’s and the twins parents had arrived. Audie’s parents followed their son into the ambulance and off to the hospital. Valerie broke free from her Mother's grasp and tried to follow Audie into the ambulance. "I want to be with him," she cried. "Is he alright? Please tell me he is alright."

The ambulance pulled away leaving Valerie behind. She and her sister held each

other in a tearful embrace and were soon joined by their loving parents who tried, unsuccessfully, to console them.

For the twins the days that followed were filled with darkness and melancholy. Their friend was still in the hospital, severely injured. The joy of Christmas was being replaced by sadness. All the twins could think about was their little friend Audie, wishing that they could be by his side. Even their Mother was noticeably worried. The twins considered the possibility of never seeing Audie again. Lord how they suffered. Their days were surrounded by a melancholy mist that left them anxious and crestfallen.

Christmas Eve had arrived. There was still no word as to Audie’s condition. Earlier in the week they overheard someone at the corner store say that it didn’t look good. The news brought Sarah and Valerie to tears. Not even the affection of Rusty the Dog could make it better.

That night the twins went into their bedroom and decided to talk to God about what was happening to Audie. God was waiting for them there. From the corner store was heard the faint voices of the Carolers singing "Silent Night."

The twins stared out of their bedroom window. The moonlight made a luminous path on the snow as it reflected off of the icy landscape and disappeared into the night sky.

Had it been any other Christmas Eve the twins would have been looking out of that same window to catch a glimpse of Santa Claus and his reindeer. Not this time folks!

The only one capable of performing a Christmas miracle was God Himself. The twins prayed...

"Dear God only you have the power to save our dear friend Audie. We’re worried about him God. Please don’t take him away from us. Please send him home so we can take care of him. He’s so frail God, please don’t take him away. We don’t want any Christmas presents God. All we want is to hold our dear friend Audie again. Please don’t let him die. We’re asking for a miracle God. Thank you! Amen."

With their prayer having

been said, Sarah and Valerie closed their eyes and fell into a fitful sleep with Rusty the Dog by their side. The last thing they saw before they drifted off was the light of the Christmas Eve moon as it danced across the frosted window like a heavenly ballerina. The sight comforted them and put their worried mind to rest. It remains uncertain as to what time it was. The early morning sun had sent its rays into the twins' bedroom and made them squint and rub their sleepy eyes as they awakened. As they stumbled out of bed they heard the sound of their Mother's voice coming from the kitchen.

"I don’t believe it," exclaimed their Mom. By then the twins had made their way down the stairs and were totally overwhelmed by what they saw.

"Look who came home to wish us a Merry Christmas," said their mom. The twins thought that they were dreaming, still under the covers fast asleep. This was not a dream my friends...this was a miracle.

There before everyone’s gaze; Mom, Dad, Rusty the Dog and the sleepy eyed twins, stood none other than Little Audie and his Mom.

He was released from the hospital on Christmas Eve fully recovered from a severe concussion. The twins broke into tears as they ran to their friend. These were tears of happiness and pure joy. The grownups watched as the three became locked in a heartwarming embrace joined of course by Rusty the Dog. He loved Audie too. "Thank you God," said Sarah, "for giving Audie back to us."

"We should put Audie under our Christmas tree," said their Mother. "He’s the best gift of all."

"Thank you God for answering our prayer," said a tearful Valerie. "You gave us our friend back and made this the Merriest of all Christmases."

The twins and Audie, though much older now, (*Rusty the dog has long since gone to Doggy Heaven*), Wish everyone The Merriest of Christmases. Merry Christmas to you as well. The End. ###

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Footnotes

By Dr. Kenya Lazovik, DPM

Winter Foot Care Tips for Diabetic Individuals
The holiday season brings joy and celebration, but it can also pose challenges in maintaining optimal blood glucose levels. For individuals with diabetes, safeguarding foot health becomes particularly crucial. Here's guidance for your foot

care during winter and minimize potential complications.
1. Daily Foot Inspection: Diabetic individuals should establish a daily foot inspection routine. Thoroughly examine each pressure point on your feet, including the often-neglected spaces between your toes. Inspect your skin for any

signs of breaks or abnormalities. Should you notice anything unusual or uncomfortable, promptly consult your podiatrist for expert advice.
2. Proper Footwear Matters: Winter's cold and damp conditions, coupled with compromised foot circulation, increase the risk of foot problems. Ensure your footwear provides adequate cushioning, protection from snow and ice, and warmth to prevent damage. Avoid tight-fitting shoes, as they can restrict blood circulation and cause toe cramping. Choose breathable socks to promote ventilation.
3. Guard Against Moisture: Prolonged moisture inside closed shoes can foster harmful germs and bacteria, leading to infections. Whenever your feet become wet due to cold weather, take care to gently dry them. This simple practice can help ward off potential issues.
4. Daily Moisturization: Inadequate circulation in dia-

betic feet can lead to dryness, which may result in skin damage, especially during winter. Moisturizing your feet daily can improve skin health and enhance blood circulation. It's a small yet vital step in your foot care routine.
5. Trim Toenails With Care: Uncut or damaged toenails can become a source of infection and may even necessitate amputation in severe cases. If you plan to trim your nails yourself, soften them first and cut them straight across. If you encounter thick, crumbly, or discolored nails, seek professional assistance without delay.
6. Exercise Extra Caution: Diabetes-related nerve damage can lead to numbness in the feet, making it essential to exercise caution around heat sources such as heaters, heating pads, or open fires. Numbness diminishes sensation, increasing the risk of injury, so be extra vigilant.
7. Maintain Blood Sugar Control: Managing your dia-

betes and keeping blood sugar levels in check is paramount. Feet often bear the brunt of diabetes-related complications due to the daily stresses they endure. Properly managing your diabetes can significantly reduce the risk of foot issues.
Remember, if you have diabetes and concerns about your foot, ankle, or toe health, or if you experience heel discomfort or any other foot-related issues, don't hesitate to schedule a visit with your local podiatrist. We are here to ensure your feet remain healthy and keep you walking comfortably through the winter season and beyond.
Stay warm, stay well, and take care of your feet – they're your foundation for a happy, active life. ###
For further information about ankle fractures and sprains or other foot and ankle problems, contact Dr. Lazovik, Dr. Dayana Sawh or Dr. Rana Moses at North Jersey Foot & Ankle Center at 862-233-8438. www.NJfootandankle.com ###



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Filling You In

By Jeffrey E. Mason, DMD, FAGD.

Oral Health As We Age

As we ring in a new year, we are also reminded of the opportunity to set healthy goals as we are a year older. Prevention and management of oral conditions will prove to be helpful in maintaining quality of living.
The aging population in the United States is growing. Older patients should know that maintaining good oral health is vital to having a healthy smile and optimal overall health. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), oral pain, difficulty eating (due to missing teeth, ill-fitting dentures, cavities and gum disease) and tooth loss are all signs of oral health problems in aging adults. Your dentist can help prevent and detect these oral health problems.
What oral conditions am I more prone to as I age?
• Dental caries. Dental car-

ies (tooth decay) is one of the main causes of tooth loss, or edentulism. About 23 million people are completely edentulous (toothless), according to the American College of Prosthodontists.
• Periodontal disease. Periodontal disease (gum disease) is a chronic bacterial infection that affects the gums and bone supporting your teeth. According to CDC, in 2012, one out of every two American adults age 30 and older have had gum disease, which can lead to tooth loss.
• Xerostomia (dry mouth). When the salivary glands do not work properly, the amount of saliva in the mouth decreases, resulting in dry mouth, which can lead to decay. Prescription and over-the-counter medications are the most common cause of dry mouth. Dry mouth can make it difficult to eat, swallow, taste and speak.
• 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 your mouth; or difficulty swallowing, chewing, speaking, or moving your jaw or tongue. Your dentist should perform a head and neck exam to screen for oral cancer during your routine checkups.
How can I maintain my oral health as I age?

- Avoid tobacco, which is a risk factor for periodontal disease and oral cancer, and limit alcohol, which is also an oral cancer risk factor.
- Drink fluoridated water and use fluoride toothpaste to protect against decay.
- Practice good oral hygiene. Brushing your teeth with a soft-bristled brush for two minutes twice a day, and flossing between teeth, can help remove plaque. If you wear dentures, brush them every day to remove food particles, plaque and prevent staining. Before inserting your dentures, brush your gums, tongue and the roof of your mouth to stimulate tissue circulation and remove plaque.
- Visit your dentist at least twice a year. People who do not have teeth still need to visit the dentist regularly, since denture adjustments and oral cancer screenings are part of routine dental visits. Older patients who are planning to enter a nursing home should ask about on-site dental care.

What if arthritis makes brushing my teeth difficult?
If you have arthritis and brushing your teeth is painful for you, you can try securing your toothbrush to a wider object, such as a ruler, or try an electric toothbrush.
Talk with your dentist for more suggestions to manage any challenging oral conditions and strategies to prevent other conditions from arising.
Ref: *Academy of General Dentistry 2017*
Dr. Jeffrey Mason is a cosmetic and general dentist at 232 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ. 201-288-4447, www.DrJeffreyMason.com

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Let's Go Traveling!

By Rick Ardis

The Gift of Travel

While it is late to be planning a trip for this holiday season, it is the perfect time to start planning for 2024 travel. As the family gathers this month for the various holiday celebrations, it is an excellent chance to discuss options for sharing vacation time together during the ensuing year.

Traveling with children, grandchildren, and other relatives is a tremendous opportunity to create memories that will last far longer than traditional material gifts. Toys get broken, clothing styles change, but the shared experience of vacationing with family is eternal. I can still picture travels by car with my parents, brother, aunt, and cousins throughout the northeast and eastern Canada. After my father's passing and my mother's entry into the travel industry, the memories of trips by air expanded my recollections to new destinations.

By involving the children in planning a vacation, you allow them to garner their voice and feel a valued part of the

decision-making process. It also gives them an opportunity to learn the value of money and budgeting by prioritizing choices. My niece and nephew traveled with their parents and grandmother from an early age. Their experiences taught them to behave properly while on airplanes, at hotels and restaurants. When it was time to travel on their own, they were poised and unflustered when hiccups occurred during a trip.

Studies show there are many other benefits gained by journeying with loved ones. Vacations promote family bonding. Visiting other cities, countries, and cultures allows the family to escape the daily routine and experience new things together. Travel makes youngsters more intelligent and expands their social awareness. When introduced to other cultures, languages, and foods early, children become more venturesome outside their comfort zone gaining self-confidence and overcoming fears.

For the adults on a family odyssey, there are also many

pluses. Parents get a chance to spend more time than when they are shuttle drivers to and from school or afternoon sports and activities. Grandparents and extended family are around for more than just holidays and special events. Adults can even get to be a kid again by recreating their own memories with other generations.

Psychologist and best-selling author, Oliver James, was quoted in the England's newspaper, The Telegraph, "Family holidays are valued by children, both in the moment and long afterward in their memory. It's all about talking nonsense with your parents, sharing an ice cream and moments of time in which your interests are genuinely taken into account. So if you're going to spend money on something, it's pretty clear which option makes more sense."*

Family vacations are an investment in your kids. You can solidify your relationship with them and participate in their learning outside the classroom. Also, they help boost your happiness and well-being too. Family excursions do not have to mean a high budget jaunt. Having fun together is all that matters.

While this article focused

on the benefits to families, travel is the perfect gift to a spouse, significant other, or someone with whom you wish to spend more time. It is even a perfect present for yourself. Give the gift of travel and have a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, and

a prosperous Happy New Year.
*from www.moneycrashers.com

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

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HH Leisure Club Senior Moments

The Hasbrouck Heights Senior Club Upcoming Programs:

- December 6: Christmas Party at the Fiesta. Members \$60. Non-members \$65.
- January 10: Scam information, possible Bingo.
- February 14: Blue Chip Chorus singing Valentine and Patriotic Songs.
- March 13: Presentation on George Washington in New Jersey given by Pat Schuber.

###

Carlstadt Senior Friendship Club

Senior Friendship Club, Inc. meets at the Civic Center Building, every first and third Wednesday of each month. Every Thursday, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., card games and Mexican Train/dominoes.

Trips

All trips leave from the parking lot at Broad and Orchard Streets. Arrive 15 minutes before. Call Helene at 201-463-3000 for details.

- December 8: Shore Club. Radio City Tribute. Chicken/Beef/Fish, Cocktail Hour. Comedian. Music. \$72 pp. ###

Father Christmas' rein-deers 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. Donder is also known as Donner.) ###

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Bergen County LGBTQ Seniors Meet Dec. 12, 18, 15

Bergen County LGBTQ+ Alliance (BCLA), a non-profit organization, hosts a seniors (60+) group that meets on the second Tuesday and the third Monday of each month in person and the third Friday virtually. All meetings begin at 11:30 a.m.

The next meetings are on Tuesday, December 12, Monday, December 18 and Friday, December 15. The Tuesday meeting will be held at The Rutherford Pancake House, 40 Park Avenue, Rutherford and the Monday meeting will be held at CoZie Café, 14-25 Plaza Road N (Radburn Plaza Building), Fair Lawn. Light lunch will be served at the in person meetings.

Contact us at Nick@bergen-countyLGBTQ.org or 201-470-8946 for info and/or the link. ###

Little Ferry Seniors Club New Address

Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. Refreshments are served. Bingo is the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 12 p.m. All meetings and games are held at Little Ferry Senior Center at our new address at 250 Mehrhof Road. New Members are always welcome. Dues are \$15 per year, per person. For more information, call Mary at 201-686-8424. ###

Get Connected

AARP Chapter #2015 Lodi

The AARP Chapter #2015 of Lodi meets at noon the third Tuesday of every month at the Lodi Senior Citizens Building, 22 Walnut Place. Each meeting will have either a speaker or entertainment as well as light refreshments. New members are welcome. Dues are \$10 for the calendar year (January 1 to December 31). National AARP membership is also required. For membership information contact Stan at 973-779-8544 or email to aarp.2015.lodi.nj@gmail.com.

- December 19, 2023: Holiday celebration.

Provided by Kathleen Zalski. ###

ER Seniors

Any East Rutherford senior resident, 50 years or older, is welcome to join 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 for members.

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 Raynette for trips at 201-726-3604. Payment must be received 2 weeks prior to an event. All trips leave and return to CVS Parking Lot, Paterson Avenue, East Rutherford.

- December 18: Caesars Atlantic City Bus Trip. Bus leaves CVS parking lot at 9:30 sharp. \$35 pp. \$30 back slot play. ###

If you received all of the gifts in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," you would receive 364 gifts. ###

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Carlstadt Public Library

Carlstadt Library, 420 Hackensack Street, Carlstadt, NJ 07072. 201-438-8866, Handicap accessible. bccls.org or www.carlstadtlibrary.org Registration required unless noted.

- **Bingocize.** Designed to benefit older adults who want to improve their balance, flexibility and strength while socializing and meeting new friends on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. through December.
- **Wreath-Making & Mindfulness Workshop.** In partnership with the Mid-Bergen Regional Health Commission, the Carlstadt Library invites families to attend a

wreath-making and mindfulness workshop on Saturday, December 2 at 10:30 a.m. Create a festive wreath and learn tips on how to manage holiday season stress. Family participation encouraged.

- **Beginner Yoga with Onika.** Mondays, December 4, 11 and 18 at 10:15 a.m. Bring a yoga mat. Register for each session.
- **Movie Madness.** "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3" Tuesday, December 5 at 1 p.m. or Wednesday, December 6 at 6 p.m. Seating is limited
- **Crafts for Crafters.** Learn the popular art of *soap making* on Thursday, December 7 at 7 p.m. Create a *money lei*. Money leis are a creative alternative to gifting cash in a holiday card.

Tuesday, December 19 at 7 p.m. Participants must bring their own cash for the project in the denominations they wish to use; no change will be provided.

- **Career Development Series Part 4 of 4.** Job Interview Preparation on Tuesday, December 12 at 7 p.m. Employment coach Sunny Desai, MBA, will teach interview skills and lead mock interviews
- **Gingerbread House Decorating.** Attend a gingerbread house decorating event. Unleash your inner child and create your own decorated masterpiece. This program is self-directed and not instructor led. Wednesday, December 13 at 7 p.m. Materials supplied.
- **Cook the Books!** The Cookbook Club meets Wednesday, December 20 at 7 p.m. This month, members are free to bring a dish of their own choosing, for our first annual holiday party
- **As the Page Turns - Adult Book Club.** Discuss "Small Mercies" by Dennis Lehane on Wednesday, December 27 at 7 p.m. New members

welcome! Copies are available at the Circulation Desk, on Hoopla and Libby!

- **Storytime at the Library with Miss Risa.** Wednesdays, December 6, 13 and 20 at 11 a.m. for ages 6 months to 5 years.
- **Music with Miss Nita.** Thursdays, December 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 10:15 and 11 a.m. Babies, toddlers and preschool children will enjoy songs, rhymes, movement and instrument play.
- **Caregiver and Child Candle Making Workshop.** For children ages 5 and up on Thursday, December 7 at 4 p.m. Design your very own candle using scents and soy wax. All materials will be supplied.
- **Little Bookworms: Yoga Storytime.** Babies and toddlers ages 18 months to 5 years old on Tuesday, December 12 at 10:30 a.m. Explore a world of stories along with baby-centered yoga poses.
- **Tween Needle Felting Workshop.** Children, ages 9 and up, are invited on Tuesday, December 19 at 4 p.m. to attend a needle felting workshop and create a felt unicorn. No prior experience necessary. All materials will be supplied.
- **Children's Thanksgiving Craft.** For children, ages 4 and up, on Tuesday, November

21 at 4 p.m. Design your own Thanksgiving turkey using paint and tissue paper. All materials supplied.

- **Soap Making Workshop.** Children ages 9 and up. Thursday, November 30 at 4 p.m. Join crafter, Eun Park and create your own soap to take home. All materials supplied.
- **Take-It-and-Make-It Crafts for Kids.** Children of all ages to pick up a monthly take-it-and-make-it craft. This month's craft is a holiday ornament. Craft kits will be available at the Library from December 1 through 31, while supplies last.
- **1,000 Books Before Kindergarten.** The Carlstadt Library has launched an initiative to encourage families to read 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. Reading together creates lifelong memories and helps develop pre-literacy skills. Children who are read to at an early age have larger vocabularies and are more successful in school. 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is a fun, free way to start your child on the path to success! Children from birth to 5 years old can participate. Stop by the Children's Department to register, pick up the program packet, and check out some books. Happy reading! ###

Lodi Memorial Library

Lodi Memorial Library, One Memorial Drive, Lodi, NJ 07644. 973-365-4044. <http://lodi.bccls.org/> Registration required for all programs unless stated.

- **Meditation.** Yoga teacher Priti Dhariwal, will teach the basics of meditation. Meditation can wipe away the day's stress, bringing with it inner peace. Classes will be on Fridays 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. December 1 and 8. Call 973-365-4044 ext. 2. You must reserve a spot for each session you wish to attend. Sponsored by The Friends of Lodi Memorial Library.
- **Tuesday Night Book Club.** Tuesday, December 12, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. December's book is "The Measure" by Nikki Erlick – 352 pages. Contact director@lodi.bccls.org for more information about book club meetings.
- **Semi-Monthly Movie.** Afternoon movies twice a month. December movies: "Phantom of the Open" on December 6 at 1 p.m. and "Last Christmas" on December 13 at 1 p.m.
- **Adult Crafts.** December's craft will be lightbulb snowman ornaments. Craft will be held in-person on Tuesday, December 5 at 1:30 p.m. Register online at lodi.bccls.org or call to reserve your spot. 973-365-4044 ext 2.
- **Color Your Stress Away.** Friday, December 8, 2:30 p.m. A coloring club for adults on the 2nd Friday of each month. A relaxing hour of coloring, complete with meditative music and refreshments. Materials provided, but feel free to bring

your own crayons or colored pencils.

- **Creating With Clay: Frosty the Plate Man.** Thursday, December 14, 6 p.m. Join Lisa from Creating With Clay, LLC to create your very own snowman dish while discussing clay techniques, the history of clay and clay manipulation. Participants will leave with a completed, beautiful piece of pottery!
- **Adult Coloring Pages, Mazes and Community Puzzle.** Always available for adults. Come to the Library to de-stress with our free coloring materials, fun mazes, and beautiful puzzles. ###

Children Special Programs

- **Anime Club.** Grades 6-12, In-person, Wednesday, December 6, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Watch a movie, get some snacks, and make a craft. Registration required.
- **Lodi Game Club.** All ages (12 and under must be accompanied by an adult). Join us for all kinds of games every Thursday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. No registration necessary.
- **High School Hang-out.** Grades 9-12. Every Tuesday from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the conference room for games, movies, and other fun activities.
- **Grab & Go Craft.** Grades Pre K - 2. A new grab & go project will be available each Monday! While supplies last. No registration.
- **Legos.** – All ages. Tuesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Children's Room. Make your own creations with Legos. No registration necessary.
- **Storytime.** Every Tuesday and Friday at 11 a.m. No registration necessary. ###

Wallington Public Library

Wallington JFK Memorial Library, 92 Hathaway St. Wallington, NJ 07057. 973-471-1692. www.wallingtonpubliclibrary.org Registration required for all programs unless stated.

Please note that the Library will be closed on the following dates: December 25, 2023 and December 26, 2023.

- **Library Apps Support.** Monday, December 4, from 4 to 6 p.m. Drop-in to learn about 3 important Library apps: BCCLS, Libby, and Hoopla. No appointment necessary! Not sure about dropping in? Call 973-471-1692 to help decide!
- **Music with Miss Nita.** Wednesday, December 6 at 1 p.m. Join Miss Nita for singing, dancing, and more! Open to children ages 0 - 5 and caregivers.
- **Adult Craft: DIY Christmas Ornaments.** Thursday, December 7 at 6 p.m. Make your very own unique Christmas ornaments! Fill them or paint them, you'll create something special for yourself!
- **Meet and Read to Ollie!**

Friday, December 8 at, at 12:30 p.m. Children of all ages, join the fun by reading a book to Ollie, a fun loving therapy dog! No registration required.

- **Children's Yoga Time.** Tuesday, December 12 at 4 p.m. Bring water and a yoga mat or towel with you! Open to ages 6-12.
- **Adult Craft: Mason Jar Lid Snowman.** Thursday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m., we'll make these festive snowmen! No experience needed.
- **Reading to Rosie.** Friday, December 15 at 3:30 p.m. Rosie loves reading, hugs, and belly rubs! Open to all children.
- **Coloring Therapy.** Wednesday, December 20, at 3 p.m. Adults of all ages. Chill time: think calming tunes, tea, and coloring pages and books ready for you to color. Supplies provided, but feel free to bring your own if you like. Registration encouraged.

- **"Beyond the Bookshelf" Book Club.** Open to adults and older teens. For December we will be discussing "The Bodyguard" by Katherine Center. Pick up a copy or check out Libby. New members welcome!
- **Keep Calm and Puzzle On.** Thursday, December 28, at 4:30 p.m. Join us for a cozy and relaxing puzzle event! Take some time to relax and wind down with the end of 2023. Registration is encouraged.
- **Children's Take Home Craft Kits** will be available the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month! Grab one while supplies last! ###



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Hasbrouck Heights
Free Public Library

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

The Library’s fall hours of operation are as follows: Mondays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays through Thursdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Return Library materials in our book box at the rear of the Municipal Building. Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted. Any child under the age of 9 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

The Library Board and Administration are asking for your support to help maintain the role of the Library for its traditional purpose (*to do homework, research, use of the computers, or reading*) after school.

Little Ferry
Free Public Library

Little Ferry Free Public Library, 239 Liberty Street, Little Ferry, NJ 07643. 201-641-3721. lifycirc@bccls.org Hours: Monday through Wednesday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday, Friday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Adult Programs

- **Friday Afternoon at the Movies!** Noon.
 - December 1, "Enemy of the State" (1998), Suspense.
 - December 8, "Fast Five" (2011), Action.
 - December 15, "Die Hard" (1988), Action.
 - December 29, "Serendipity" (2001), Romantic Comedy.
- **Adult Book Club.** December 11 at 2 p.m. (*Book title to be announced*).

Children’s Programs

- **Storytime with Cynthia.** A lively 30-minute combination of books, movement activities and songs best enjoyed by families with their children. Storytimes may also include supplemental activities, such

- **Holiday Pop-Up Sale**
The HH Friends of the Library Group is sponsoring a 4-day Holiday Book and Jewelry Sale Wednesday, December 13 through Saturday, December 16. Great finds and pick up last-minute items to fill your loved ones' stockings For additional details call the Library or visit <https://www.facebook.com/HHFOL/>
- **December Holidays Story & Craft with the HH Junior Women’s Club.** Saturday, December 2, 11 a.m. The Hasbrouck Heights Junior Women’s Club bring a December story and craft to the Library! All families are welcomed. Registration is limited.

For CHILDREN

- **After-School Game Lounge Open Play.** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 to 5 p.m. Multi-player games include MarioKart and Super Smash Bros.
- **Storytime & Photos with Santa.** Thursday, December 14, 6:30 p.m. Ho Ho Ho - the big man in red will be making a special stop at the Library for a holiday storytime and photo opportunity.

- **All-Ages Storytimes.** Wednesdays, December 6 and 20, 11 to 11:30 a.m. For little ones and caregivers with songs, rhymes, and fingerplay. There may even be bubbles.
- **Family Storytime.** Tuesday, December 19, 6 p.m.
- **Read-to-a-Dog.** Thursday, December 7, 6 to 7 p.m. Our furry friend, Oscar, is ready to listen! Come on by and get some reading practice in, bring one of your books or choose from ours.
- **Lego Club.** Wednesdays, December 6 and 20, 4 to 5 p.m. All builders are invited!
- **Holiday Slime Time!** Friday, December 15, 3:30 p.m. for ages 5 and up. Nothing says happy holidays quite like colorful glittery slime! Join fellow slime scientists and create your own gooey goodness. Space is limited.

Rutherford Public Library, 150 Park Avenue, Rutherford NJ. 201-939-8600. rutherfordlibrary.org, [facebook.com/rutherfordpubliclibrary](https://www.facebook.com/rutherfordpubliclibrary) and [twitter@Rutherford_pl](https://twitter.com/Rutherford_pl).

Hours: Monday-Wednesday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m, Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m, Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
The Library will be closed on Monday, December 25, and Tuesday, December 26.
The following programs require registration. Visit rutherfordlibrary.org/events to sign up!

- **Jingle & Mingle Holiday Movie Night & Party.** The Friends of the Rutherford Library are hosting a special, one-night-only, movie-themed holiday party for adults on Wednesday, December 6 at 6 p.m. Enjoy some holiday cheer and meet new friends. The adults-only event will feature a cookie-decorating class, holiday-themed refreshments, and a screening of "Love Actually" (*rated R*).
- **Victorian Tales.** Discover what titles should be on your Victorian Christmas book list this holiday season. In-person, Tuesday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m.
- **“All Together Now in the Reef”** Friday, December 15 at 4 p.m., the Center for Aquatic Sciences will present "All Together Now in the Reef" for ages 3 and up. This program focuses on the diversity in a coral reef. Teeming with life, reefs

- **Holiday Break Movie for Kids:** "The Little Mermaid" (*2023 live action*); rated PG. Friday, December 29 at 2 p.m.
Come out of the cold and enjoy a movie on our big screen TV. Snacks will be provided.
- For TEENS**
 - **Let’s Make: Ugly Sweater Gingerbread People.** Monday, December 11, 4:30- to 5:30 p.m. You’ve seen all those ugly holiday sweaters - but can you create one for a gingerbread person? We’ll provide the edible supplies, you just need to bring your creativity and holiday spirit. Program for tweens and teens in Grades 5 and up.
 - **Teen Book Club.** Monday, December 18, 5 p.m. Middle and High School students are invited for book chat, activities, snacks, and more. This month we’re reading "The Inheritance Games" by Jennifer Lynn Barnes.

For ADULTS

- **Cross Gen Crafts:**
are one of the most beautiful natural wonders of the world. Discover how this biodiverse habitat works together to become a community that thrives. No registration is required.
- **Holiday Lights of New York.** Join lecturer and NYC tour guide, Mario Medici, for a look at the history of the city's famous holiday lights and displays. Wednesday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Virtual Author Talks.**
 - World-building with YA Fantasy Fiction Superstar Author, Victoria Aveyard, Tuesday, December 5 at 7 p.m.
 - Stephanie Land, author of "Class: Motherhood, Hunger, and a Higher Education," Tuesday, December 12 at 2 p.m.
- **Virtual Mindfulness.** Miranda Lee of Find That Pause will lead virtual mindfulness sessions focused on The Gift of Presence throughout December. Fridays at 9:15 a.m. No Registration required.
- **Grab & Go Doorside Pickup.** Order books from the BCCLS catalog at www.bccls.org or submit a Grab & Go form (*from our website*) for either the adult or children’s collection! If you don’t have access to a computer, call 201-939-8600.
- **In-Person and On-Demand Yoga.** Enjoy yoga 24/7, anywhere. Brought to you by Bold Yoga and the Bendy Bookworm, this video database has class offerings and meditation tapes for all ages and experience levels; and story time for children. New classes are added all the time!
If interested, send an email

- **Snowflake Puzzle Ornaments.”** Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m. Join us as we upcycle random puzzle pieces and create unique snowflakes to adorn your holiday tree, doorway or wherever you display ornaments! Open to teens and adults.
- **Friday Movie Matinee: “A Street Cat Named Bob.”** Friday, December 8, Friday, 1 to 3 p.m. Refreshments provided.
- **Crafts-to-Share Club.** Tuesday, December 12, 6 to 8 p.m. and Wednesday, December 27, 1 to 3 p.m. In-person and on Zoom by request.
- **Adult Book Club.** No book in December
- **English Conversation Practice Group.** Intermediate Level or above. No Drop-Ins. Must apply before attending. Mondays and Saturdays available. ###

It's a Wonderful Life" appears on TV more often than any other holiday movie. ###

- to reference@rutherford.bccls.org and we will send you the access information.
- **ESL In-Person and Virtual Classes.** In-person ESL meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Virtual ESL classes are held Mondays through Thursdays. Registration for in-person classes must be done in person at the circulation desk.
- **Monthly Movie.** Join us for a monthly movie screening on the last Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m., sponsored by the Friends of the Library. No registration necessary.
- **Regular Features.** Every month we hold a regular Monday Night Book Group, Cook-a-Book Book Club, Spice Club cooking event, Read ‘Em & Eat Book Club, and YA Book Talk in addition to our special programs. We feature Story Time with Miss Jane most Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.
- **Teen Advisory Board.** A teen advisory board is a monthly meeting of teens who utilize the Library regularly, would like to have a say in programming, and are willing to provide their unique perspectives. Meetings will run for an hour, during which time we will discuss future programs and how best to garner teen engagement. We are still recruiting. Please email Teen Librarian Marion at marion.johnson@rutherford.bccls.org
- **Tech Tutor.** Our tech librarian will be available by appointment for tech help or lessons. To make an appointment, fill out our online form or email marion.johnson@rutherford.bccls.org ###

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Volunteers Welcome



ER Building Collapse

East Rutherford, NJ: October 28, 2023, was National First Responders Day. It was also the day that numerous first responder agencies, including fire departments, police and EMS units responded to a collapse scene in this borough to save a man's life.

Work was being done to renovate a 143-year old structure that was a local landmark and former the location of the Railroad Cafe, on Union Street. The building experienced a partial collapse of the foundation, causing injury to three workers. One worker escaped and was treated at the scene. Another self-extricated and was treated for a leg injury and transported to Hackensack University Medical Center.

A third worker's body was pinned up to the waist area, between the foundation wall and concrete and other debris.

The East Rutherford Fire Department and Wallington Rescue were dispatched to the scene. The incident was assessed, victims assisted, and a call was put in to activate the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Metro Strike Team. Highly trained members with specialized rescue trucks rolled to the borough.

Nearby Hackensack's special operations truck and a shoring unit were first to arrive with UASI trained personnel. Before the incident was

over, UASI units responded to the scene from: Paterson, Hoboken, Jersey City, North Hudson-including a shoring unit-, Newark, Morristown, Elizabeth, Millburn and the Port Authority. NJ Transit police were on location due to the incident being located near a busy railroad crossing. Hackensack University Medical Center EMT's and paramedics were attending to the conscious victim inside the structure and assisted with his removal.

The structure was made stable for rescue operations and the extrication commenced.

An adjacent restaurant helped by supplying electrical power for first responders and coming out with cases of water for emergency workers, on this warm October afternoon, with temperatures in the 80's. In addition, the Teaneck Box 54 canteen arrived to assist with the rehab operations.

According to a PIX news report, the victim was extricated in 120-minutes. The worker was transported to HUMC with injuries described as "severe." At sunset, the building was demolished for safety.

East Rutherford, Wallington and UASI firefighters teamed up and operated quickly and efficiently to save a life on their special day.

Photos and story by Ron Jeffers, N.J. Editor, 1st Responder News. ###



Bergen County Executive James J. Tedesco III, Bergen County Commissioners Steven Tanelli and Mary Amoroso, Bergen County Parks Director James Koth and Deputy Director Ron Subramaniam, joined by East Rutherford Council members George Cronk, Michael Lorusso, Ed Ravettine, and Wallington Council member Khaldoun Androwis, and County parks sports court design/construction team cut the ribbon in front of Wood Dale County Park's brand-new tennis courts. ###

Bergen County Executive Jim Tedesco, the Bergen County Board of Commissioners, and the Bergen County Parks Department announce the renovation completion and grand opening of new sports courts at Samuel Nelkin County Park in Wallington.

Over the past two months the County Parks Department worked to resurface two tennis

courts and a full-size basketball court, while also adding three pickleball courts to the park. All three recreational amenities feature lights to allow for extended play past dusk.

The completion of the Samuel Nelkin County Park sport courts is part of a larger initiative to upgrade amenities across the Bergen County Parks System. The new courts were designed by Neglia En-

gineering and constructed by Zenith Construction Services.

Samuel Nelkin County Park is named for former Wallington Mayor and NJ Transit President Samuel Nelkin who deeded the 17-acre property to the Bergen County Parks Commission in 1954 to create Wallington County Park. The park was renamed in Nelkin's honor 25 years later in 1979. Provided by Bergen County. ###



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Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department held an Open House on Saturday, October 28, 2023, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Fire HQ on Hamilton Avenue. Families had the opportunity to meet firefighters, inspect the fire equipment and enjoy some crafts and snacks. ###



Carlstadt Fire Department held their annual Fire Prevention Open House on Thursday, October 5, 2023, starting 6 p.m. at Fire Headquarters on Madison Street, Carlstadt.

Featured was a "smoke house" to teach important fire safety lessons.

Families had the opportunity to meet firefighters, inspect the fire equipment and enjoy some crafts and snacks. Photos by Dennis Kromyak Sr. ###



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Please drop off a new, unwrapped toy to our office during business hours until December 16, 2023. Donations to benefit Hackensack Meridian Children's Health



Sponsored by
Cory Waters, Realtor

Pictures with Santa Holiday Party



10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Saturday, December 9th



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Holiday Crafts

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For more information please call our Hasbrouck Heights Branch: (201) 862-0660 ext.1300



Elie Khoury
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TERRIE O'CONNOR

REALTORS
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Terrie O'Connor, Broker President, and Mary Ellen Courtney, Broker/Manager of Terrie O'Connor Realtors—The Gateway Group welcome Elie Khoury as a Sales Associate in our Hasbrouck Heights office.

Elie Khoury is a hardworking Realtor® who understands the importance of professionalism in the real estate industry. With a strong sense of loyalty and genuine care for his clients, Elie's primary goal is to ensure their satisfaction throughout the real estate process.

Originally from Lebanon, Elie relocated to the United States in 2018. He is multilingual and fluent in English, Arabic, and French, which effectively allows him to communicate and connect with a diverse range of clients. He also has a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Business Administration.

Elie Khoury is a dedicated Realtor® with a global perspective and a commitment to client satisfaction. He can help you with all real estate requests, whether it be buying or selling your property.



567 Collins Ave, Hasbrouck Heights: Excellent starter home with endless possibilities. Updated kitchen. Commuters delight. **\$429,000**



172 Washington Ave, Elmwood Park: Center hall colonial. Expanded eat-in kitchen. All seasons porch. Deck. **\$530,000**



30 Vreeland Ave, Midland Park: Meticulously maintained colonial. Living room with wood burning fireplace. Great location. **\$650,000**



1161 High Mountain Rd, North Haledon: Charming ranch on expansive lot. Warm and inviting ambiance. **\$689,000**

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

We are accepting donations for the Hasbrouck Heights Food Pantry. Please stop in and drop off your non-perishable donations. Grocery store gift cards are also accepted and appreciated. Holiday drop off deadline is December 18th.



38 Moonachie Rd, #301, Hackensack: Open floor plan. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Deck. New floors. New kitchen appliances. **\$400,000**



25 Skyview Dr, North Haledon: Summit Pointe 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath townhouse. Expansive kitchen with fireplace. 2-car garage. **\$769,000**



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