

# The Gazette

Carlstadt • East Rutherford • Hasbrouck Heights • Little Ferry • Lodi • Moonachie  
Ridgefield Park • Rutherford • South Hackensack • Teterboro • Wallington • Wood-Ridge  
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VOL. 17, No. 7 July 2020 ★★★★★



Moonachie Memorial Park 2020

## Honor • Respect

On May 5, 1868, three years after the Civil War ended, Decoration Day was established to honor the graves of war dead with flowers. At Arlington National Cemetery that year, flowers were placed on both Union and Confederate graves. Then, as now, small American flags were also placed on each grave. To honor the deceased, soldiers would decorate graves of their fallen comrades with flowers, flags and wreaths, hence Decoration Day. In the 1880s, it became Memorial Day. After World War I, the day was expanded to honor those who died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday and held on the last Monday in May. *More photos on pages 12, 13. ###*

# JERSEY STRONG

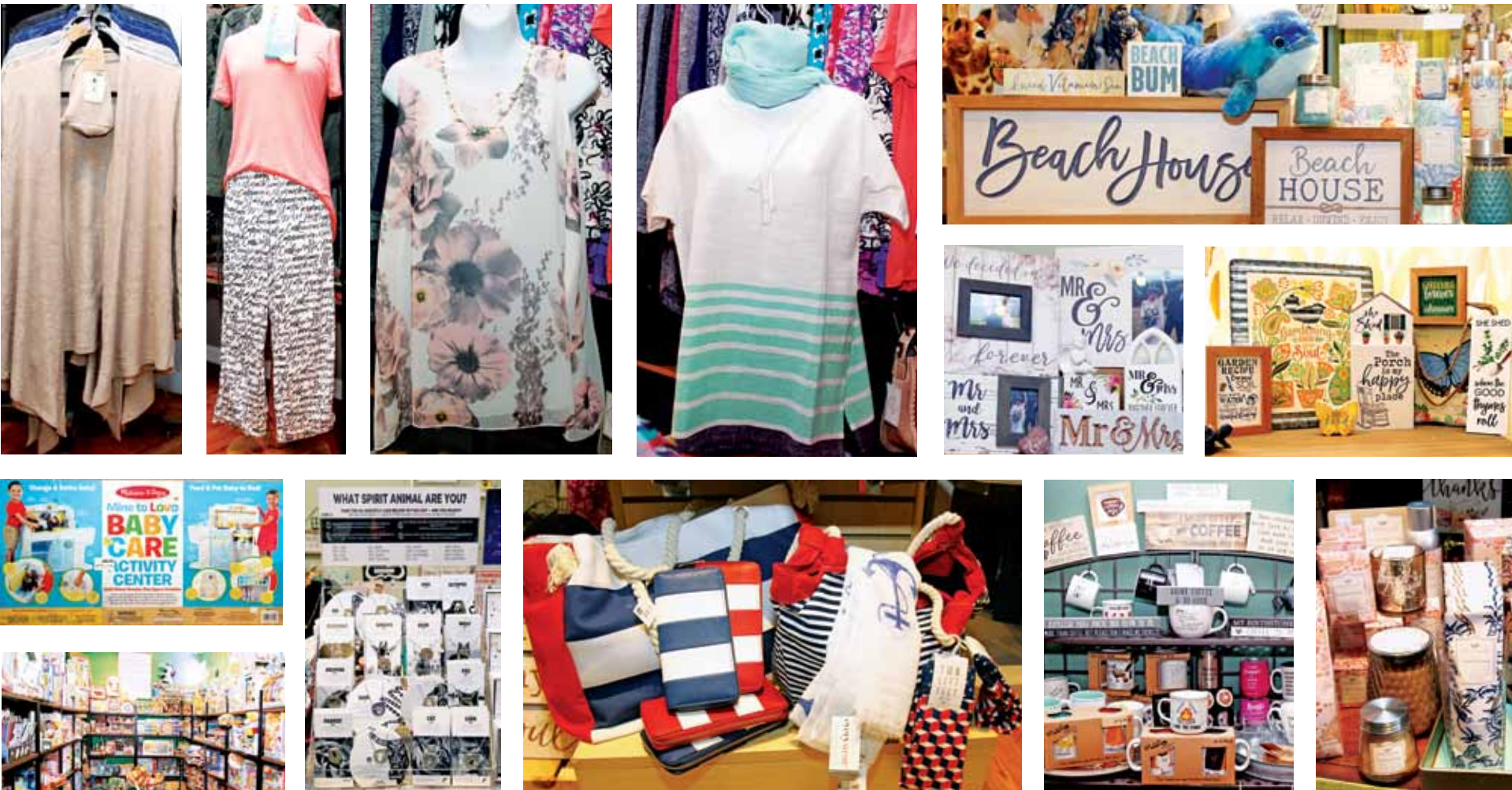
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## *BC Clerk Explains Mail-in Ballots*

The path to recovery may be long, but we are New Jersey resilient and strong! ###

***FOCAS Holds  
Flea Market  
July 18 & 19***

***Knights Re-schedule  
25th Anniversary  
Dinner to October 16***

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. It was founded by Father Michael J. McGivney in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1882. The Wood-Ridge Council was organized in 1995 by the Assumption Church's Pastor Rev. James Czerwinski. The names of thirty-five men from the parish are on its charter. Eighteen of them are still members of the Council. Today, the membership is over 100. *Story by Peter Gallo Jr. ###*

**AL Pig Roast  
July 11, 2020  
Canceled**

This “All you can eat” hamburgers, hot dogs, London Broil, BBQ chicken, 100 lb. plus pig, mussels, fresh corn on the cob, salads, draft beer and soda held in their picnic grove has been a popular event for years. ###

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the protected  
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## HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY: June 21**

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What Religious Freedom Means in 2020

On May 22, 2020, President Trump labeled Churches as essential. While COVID-19 might have caused Churches to have to connect in different ways, the truth is, people of faith always understood that Churches are essential.

We understand it because the invaluable work of faith produces morals and human rights such as the “golden rule” (Matthew 7:12 / Luke 6:31), promotes peacemaking, resolution, societal values, anti-corruption and honest business ethics – all things we desperately need in our current world.

As a passionate Christian and believer in Christ and His redemptive work, I believe that all religions deserve freedom of religion status.

I am grateful that our Founding Fathers worked to set up a government structure that allowed for religious freedom.

Even the most ardent objectors understand that the Puritans were serious Christians who came to create, as Mas-

sachusetts Governor John Winthrop would state, “a shining city upon a hill” (a reference to Matthew 5:14). While Puritans separated Church and state, they believed both institutions would work together to promote, and protect Christianity.

The personal side of faith produces a relationship with something bigger, something beyond just ourselves.

God’s nature of being Eternal, Supreme, Creator (all things), Giver of Life, Omnipresent (everywhere at once), Omniscient (all knowing), Omnipotence (all powerful), Compassionate, Forgiver, Redeemer, Savior, Restorer, Healer, Protector and Judge allows each person to not just survive but to thrive in life. He becomes the reason to get up each morning, giving us purpose.

As we celebrate this Independence Day, let us never forget the brave men and women who continue to preserve our rights, including freedom of religion. In that same vein,

let us all work to continue to use our rights to freedom of religion in the most honorable way by showing compassion in a confused world, acting with kindness in the midst of chaos and being “a shining city upon a hill” to those who are searching.

Our religious freedom is essential, but so is the way that we display our use of this privilege.

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Scene at the **Black Lives Matter Walk** at Arnot Road, Lodi, NJ, at about 1 p.m., on Sunday, June 7, 2020, about 2-minutes before the protest march began. *Photo by Patti Bonczkowski. ###*

**SELLING? BUYING? RELOCATING?**

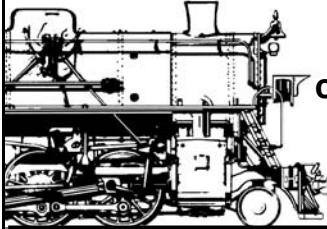


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On May 7, 2020, food donations were made to our very own Teri Trivigno and her crew at Holy Name for all the amazing work they are doing. On May 26, 2020, WREA and Pride delivered lunches to keep these Hackensack Hospital frontline workers fed to include: Meghan Lang (*WRHS Graduate-Class of 2015*) along with her trauma unit, working in the COVID unit. *Provided by Reisetta Dunn. ###*

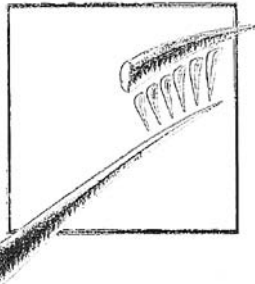


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# Filling You In

By Jeffrey E. Mason, DMD, FAGD.

### The New Normal

Two months ago in my article, I talked about that question that a child may ask while traveling with their parents and not having the perspective of the length of their voyage. They would ask “are we there yet?” A child simply was eager to arrive at their destination.

Our destination during this pandemic was to be back to “normal.” As the Governor phases in and reopens our communities, there will be some obvious changes in our lifestyle. It will be hard to say that things will look normal.

So, “are we there yet?” Well, we are arriving but seemingly at an alternate destination, the “new normal.”

This new normal, as some people would like to call it, will have lifestyle changes, of which, some will be permanent and some temporary.

What will the “new normal” look like? Most things will return to what we are accustomed to. Thankfully, there will be toilet paper. However, are the COVID hairstyles here to stay? Will we continue to stand in lines spaced apart by large dots on the floor? When will we be able to go to Yankee Stadium or Citi Field? Well, time will reveal the answers to those questions.

I can offer you what you may expect visiting my dental office as we reopen in the “new normal.”

One thing that has not changed is my commitment to safety. Infection control has always been a top priority for our practice and you may have seen this during your visits to our office.

Our infection control processes are made so that when you receive care, it’s both safe and comfortable. I want to tell you about the infection control procedures we follow in our practice to keep patients and staff safe.

Our office follows infection control recommendations made by the American Dental

Association (ADA), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). We follow the activities of these agencies so that we are up-to-date on any new rulings or guidance that may be issued.

You may see some changes when it is time for your next appointment. We made these changes to help protect our patients and staff. For example:

- Our office will communicate with you beforehand to ask some screening questions. You’ll be asked those same questions again when you are in the office.

- We have hand sanitizer that we will ask you to use when you enter the office. You will also find some in the reception area and other places in the office for you to use as needed.

- You may see that our waiting room will no longer offer magazines, children’s toys and so forth, since those items are difficult to clean and disinfect.

- Appointments will be managed to allow for social distancing between patients. That might mean that you’re offered fewer options for scheduling your appointment.

- We will do our best to allow greater time between patients to reduce waiting times for you, as well as to reduce the number of patients in the reception area at any one time.

- Patients will be asked to arrive with face coverings.

- You will see us donned with more robust PPE than we formerly would use.

- You may be asked to rinse

with a special rinse prior to treatment.

- HEPA air filtration machines will be in the treatment rooms.

- New innovative dental technologies will be utilized to reduce aerosols.

- You will be offered hand sanitizer when your treatment is complete

With all of the notable changes, you may continue to expect that our commitment to the highest quality dental care remains a high priority. What remains the same in the “new normal” are the beautiful smiles even though they are behind the masks.

Welcome back! Or, should it be simply, Welcome (to the “new normal”).

So, in conclusion of this article, I express my deepest concern for the safety, wellbeing, health and happiness of all those in our community.

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

### To disinfect: diluting your household bleach

To make a bleach solution, mix: 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water OR 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water.

Follow manufacturer’s instructions for application and proper ventilation. Check to ensure the product is not past its expiration date. **Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser.** Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted. *Source: cdc.gov ###*

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**Support Local Businesses**

No doubt you have seen the “Support Local” signs on lawns and in shop windows. It’s a growing movement to bring more awareness and support to your local mom and pop shops.

As this Summer progresses and businesses begin to reopen, the Hasbrouck Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce is encouraging you to turn to your small local businesses first.

“These are hard times and many of us are tightening our belts. But spending your money at our local small shops, you might find that you are able to get everything for the same price, more conveniently and safer, than by going to big box stores,” said Chamber VP, Dave Meredith. “And best of all, that money goes right back into your community, because these folks who own these businesses mostly live in our towns and pay taxes here. They support our schools, charities and recreation, with volunteerism and donations all year long. They are an important ingredient for the wellness of our community, and many are struggling to stay open.”

You can help! For more information, visit PleaseShopLocal.com ###

**Lodi Senior Club News**

The Lodi Senior Citizens Club begins its 52nd year. The Club meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month.

Every Thursday is “Fun Day.” They have a pool table, and shuffleboard. Do what your doctor says, “Keep Moving” with exercise or Bingo, card playing or pool and enjoy a day with friends.

Plus, they usually have entertainment at most of the meetings. For information, call 973-472-6994 and leave a message. ###

- 2020 Events**
- July 14, Ice Cream Party in the Club at 1 p.m.
  - August 14, Atlantic City lunch and Resorts Casino.
  - August 25, Hot dogs in the Club at 1 p.m.
  - September 22, Lunch in the Club at 1 p.m. by Santangelo's.
  - October 7, Black Forest Inn (Octoberfest) 12 p.m. sharp.
  - December 4, Christmas Party at the Venetian.
  - December 8, Pizza in the Club at 1 p.m. ###

**AARP Chapter #2015 Events**

The AARP Chapter #2015 of Lodi meets at noon the third Tuesday of every month at the Lodi Senior Center, 22 Walnut Place. Each meeting has either a speaker or entertainment as well as light refreshments. New members welcome. Dues are \$10 for the year. For information, contact Marie at 201-566-4431. ###

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**ER Seniors**

East Rutherford Senior 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. Bingo follows each meeting. New members are always welcome.

Free Blood-Pressure Screenings take place on the 4th Tuesday of the month beginning at 11:30 a.m. For additional information, contact Josephine at 201-460-1989.

- **Caesar's Casino**, every 3rd Monday of the month. Cost is \$35 with \$30 in slot play. Bus leaves from the CVS parking lot on Paterson Avenue at 9:30 a.m. All payments must be made in advance.

**2020 Upcoming Trips**

- **July 15** - Summer Picnic - Krucker's - Pomona, NY.
- **August 19** - Entertainment - Black Forest Inn, Stanhope, NJ. ###

**Leisure Club Members Get a Break on 2021 Dues**

Hasbrouck Heights Leisure Club President June Raymond acknowledged that due to the unprecedented national health crisis the monthly meetings of the Club for 2020 were limited.

She further stated that because of this the Board of Trustees have voted that the dues collected for 2020 will be applied to the years 2020 and 2021. In essence this means that the members who paid 2020 dues will not have to pay dues in 2021.

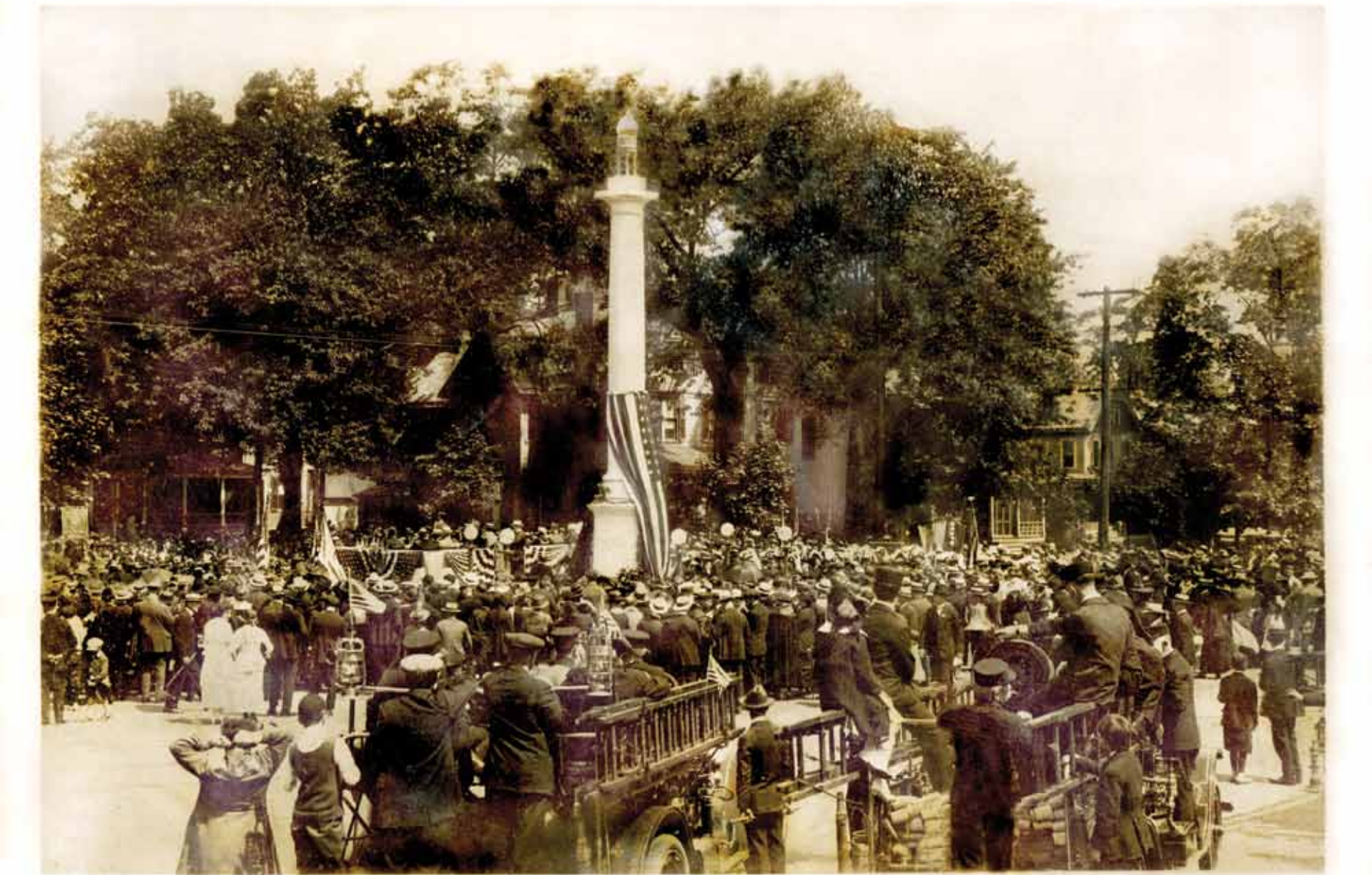
Any member who has not paid this year’s dues must still pay the \$15 dues to take advantage of all the activities that will be held in the remainder of this year and also those that will take place in 2021.

Any new members must pay \$15 dues whether they join in 2020 or 2021. *Provided by Peter Gallo Jr. ###*

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**Due to the Coronavirus, some activities may have been postponed or canceled. Check with your event contact.**



Credit: John Melfa for the original and William Neumann Photography for the photo restoration.  
Related story in The Gazette Newspaper, December 2017, pages 20, 21 .

# WWI Monument Memorialized With First Day Cover Cachets

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HAROLD GEORGE TYLER  
CLARENCE WHELOCK



*Rutherford* World War I Monument  
Centennial Anniversary  
May 31<sup>st</sup> 1920 - May 31<sup>st</sup> 2020

55

May 31<sup>st</sup> 2020

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF RUTHERFORD'S  
WORLD WAR I MONUMENT  
MAY 31<sup>st</sup>, 1920 - MAY 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

EDGAR IRVING WILLIAMS FAIA (1884-1974)  
WORLD RENOWNED RUTHERFORD ARCHITECT,  
DESIGNED THE WWI MONUMENT  
AFTER SERVING AS AN AMERICA RED CROSS CAPTAIN  
DURING "THE WAR TO END ALL WARS"





*Rutherford* World War I Monument  
Centennial Anniversary  
May 31<sup>st</sup> 1920 - May 31<sup>st</sup> 2020

55

May 31<sup>st</sup> 2020

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF RUTHERFORD'S  
WORLD WAR I MONUMENT  
MAY 31<sup>st</sup>, 1920 - MAY 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

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RUTHERFORD'S WORLD WAR I MONUMENT  
ARCHITECT: EDGAR IRVING WILLIAMS FAIA



*Rutherford* World War I Monument  
Centennial Anniversary  
May 31<sup>st</sup> 1920 - May 31<sup>st</sup> 2020

55

May 31<sup>st</sup> 2020

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF RUTHERFORD'S  
WORLD WAR I MONUMENT  
MAY 31<sup>st</sup>, 1920 - MAY 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

On Sunday May 31, 2020, Historian, William “Billy” Neumann, celebrated the 100th Year Anniversary at Rutherford's uniquely historic WWI Monument.

During the celebration, Billy Neumann detailed the monument’s history with artifacts, photos and documents.

He had limited edition, hand-made Philatelic souvenirs, traditionally known as “First Day Cover Cachets” to commemorate the memorial’s centennial and to facilitate much needed donations for the Borough’s 75 year old charity, The Community Chest of Rutherford.

The World War I Monument was created to forever memorialize 19 Rutherford men who sacrificed their lives during the “War to End All Wars.” The 32 foot, 10 inch tall, cast stone memorial was unveiled to the citizens of Rutherford in a large ceremony on May 31, 1920.

It was designed by the world renowned architect and Rutherford resident, Edgar Irving Williams, after returning from his service in World War I.

A bronze plaque attached to the monument lists the names of the 19 Rutherford men who made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States of America during WWI.

The Philatelic souvenirs for

the memorial are three hand-made, limited edition, First Day Covers/Cachets (FDC). Each are archivally printed on 4x9 inch envelopes. Each cachet depicts a different aspect of the memorial’s history and significance.

- One cachet is an image of the bronze shield and a list of the 19 Rutherford men who died during their service in WWI.

- The second shows the original blueprint and a portrait of the Rutherford architect, Edgar Irving Williams, who designed the memorial.

- The last is the architect’s illustration for the 1920 unveiling ceremony of the monument and an image created by William Neumann of the Historically Preserved monument as it is today. This image is also featured on the FDC hand made stamp.

Neumann had on-hand images of the monument’s history, a large copy of Williams’ blueprint used to create the structure, and one recently restored, never seen before, image from the exact same time and place of the original memorial celebration of its unveiling one hundred years ago!

For further information or to purchase these stamps, contact William “Billy” Neumann at 201-939-0370 or fotogbill@aol.com ###



Happy 63rd Anniversary to Mary and Dennis Kronyak Sr.! The family celebrated from the street, while Mary and Dennis stood in the doorway. Photo by Dennis Kronyak Sr. ###



Happy 92nd Birthday

Al Imbimbio, aka Hoach, turned 92-years young on Memorial Day. Hoach has coached at the Little Ferry Boys Club, for 52-years. Hoach's family told him to sit out front, because family members were going to stop to wave hi to him. We ALL surprised him. 45-cars followed the police cars with sirens on, going past his house on Marshall Avenue, Little Ferry. What a day, for an awesome guy! Photo and story by Patti Bonczkowski. ###

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Some communities recognized their graduates with pole banners. ###

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# Peaceful Protest March



A protest march was planned in Hasbrouck Heights on June 5, 2020. Preparations were made to include covering the HHPD Monument, collecting trash cans, posting “No Parking” signs from 1 to 4 p.m., etc.

At about 2:30 p.m., protesters assembled at the Hasbrouck Heights High School. Prior to

the march, Hasbrouck Heights Police Chief Michael Colaneri met with organizers to coordinate the plan and to promote safety.

Police in uniform were present at intersections to block traffic.

Marchers followed the Chief’s vehicle down the Boulevard, around The Circle and returned to the High School.

Amid enthusiastic chanting, slogans and sign waving, an estimated 300 protesters marched without incident.

The assembly formed up on the Boulevard in front of the school for impassioned speeches.

The event concluded when a protester collapsed, presumably caused by the heat, and the crowd broke up to allow EMS to resolve the issue. ###



# h Along the Boulevard





# Civil War Vet Honored

Lodi American Legion Post 136 and County Commander Francis Carrasco and Post 136 Senior Vice Commander Joseph Botta paid tribute to Kryn Vander Mast by placing a flag on his grave at the Old Lodi Burial Ground/ Church Street Cemetery.

Vander Mast honorably served in the Union Army in the Civil War, attached to Company E of the 22nd NJ Volunteer Infantry. The regiment left New Jersey for Washington, DC on September 29, 1862 under the command of Colonel Abraham G. Demarest.

The regiment saw duty in the defenses of Washington, DC until November 1862, then moving to Aquia Creek, Virginia and saw duty there guarding the railroad until January 1863.

They then moved to Belle Plains and joined the Army of the Potomac January 10, 1863, participating in the "Mud March" January 20-24, see-

ing duty at Belle Plains until April 27. The 22nd fought in the Battle of Chancellorsville April 27-May 6, saw operations at Pennsylvania's Pollock's Mill Creek April 29-May 2. The regiment mustered out on June 22, 1863 at Trenton.

In 1892, at the end of his life, Kryn Vander Mast resided at the Disabled Soldiers Home in Kearny. It was reported that while walking on nearby railroad tracks, as train 309, Engine 80, approached the Hackensack drawbridge, he stepped directly in front of the train and was struck and received injuries from which he died shortly after.

Post 136 volunteers discovered Vander Mast's grave during a recent survey of the cemetery, and wanted to make sure that this brave and troubled Veteran was remembered for his service so long ago.

*Photo and story provided by Margaret Frontera. ###*

# Rutherford Vets Held Small Ceremony



Rutherford had a very small group tossing a memorial wreath in the Passaic River at the Union Avenue Bridge at 10 a.m. on May 25, 2020.

Post officers from American Legion Post 109, American Legion Post 453, VFW Post 227, and Marine Corps League 710, along with members of the Rutherford Police Department, Volunteer Ambulance Corps, and Mayor and Council participated.

The service continued at Sunset Park. Commander Charles Gunn opened the ceremony. Mayor Frank Nunziato and Commander John Krysenowski spoke

Mr. William Galloway was issued a commendation by Mayor Nunziato that was read by Commander Robert Hansen. Galloway concluded the service with a prayer in memoriam. A member of the Rutherford Fire Department played "Taps." ###



# Memorial Day Scenes



Schmidt Hoeger Post 3149 pays Silent Homage to its Deceased Comrades on Memorial Day 2020. *Provided by Robert Nerbetski. ###*

# Decorated Memorials Honor Those Who Served



# Library Directory

Libraries of the BCCLS consortium know these are challenging times. In response, BCCLS Libraries are helping patrons without a Library card to register and get access to eBooks, eAudiobooks, and eMagazines and much more! Go to: <https://www.bccls.org/>

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

**East Rutherford Memorial Library**, 143 Boiling Springs Avenue, East Rutherford, NJ 07073. 201-939-1231, <http://eastrutherford.bccls.org/>

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

**Little Ferry Public Library**, 239 Liberty Street, NJ 07643. 201-641-3721. [littleferrybccls.org](http://littleferrybccls.org)

**Ridgefield Park Public Library**, 107 Cedar Street, Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660. 201-641-0689. <https://www.ridgefieldparkpubliclibrary.org/>

**Rutherford Public Library**, 150 Park Avenue, Rutherford NJ. 201-939-8600. [rutherfordlibrary.org](http://rutherfordlibrary.org), facebook.com/rutherfordpubliclibrary and twitter@Rutherford\_pl.

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

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

**John F. Kennedy Memorial Library**, 92 Hathaway Street, Wallington, 07057. 973-471-1692. [wallington.bccls.org](http://wallington.bccls.org) offers free programs and events for children, teens, and adults!

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Copy for the August Issue is due July 5th.

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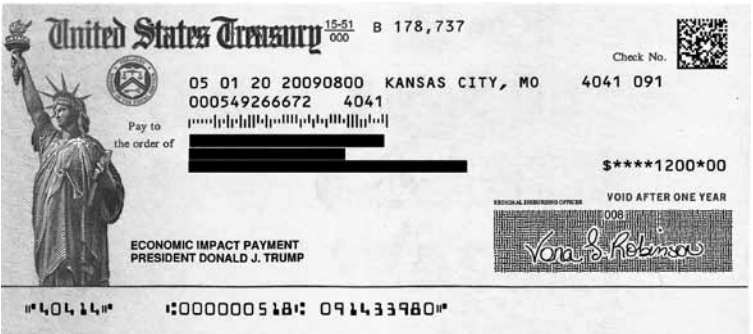
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Various signs being supportive during the crisis, including \$1,200 government checks.



Scene at Dahnerts Lake Park on Midland Avenue in Garfield on May 29, 2020. This playground reopened by June 14, 2020. Photo by Patti Bonczkowski. ###



Real Estate Insight

By Mary Ellen Courtney



A Silver Lining for Home Buyers?

Housing market trends have greatly been altered since Covid 19 hit the scene. Let's cover a few to see how the pandemic has perhaps improved home buyers' chances of making a great deal these days...

• **Mortgage Rates.** This is the trend that likely prompted you to ask "Should I invest in real estate right now?" The real estate market was actually already enjoying low mortgage rates a few months before the first Coronavirus cases were reported.

But shortly after the WHO labeled the virus an epidemic, the Federal Reserve swooped in to try and give the US economy a boost during these tough times. The federal funds rate was cut, bringing it to an even greater historical low. What's more, current mortgage forecasts seem to be all coming to the same conclusion: mortgage rates will continue to drop.

And lower mortgage rates – as we all know – can save you a ton of money over the long term.

• **Motivated Sellers and Fewer Buyers in the Market.**

It's true that many sellers are pulling their listings or are planning to wait before listing their homes for sale. At the same time, some buyers have decided against entering the market; they'd rather wait to see how things play out.

A recent Flash Survey from the National Association of Realtors shows the extent of this change in buyer seller behavior:

- 23% of residential members reported seeing sellers pulling listings
- 11% of residential members reported a significant decrease in buyer interest
- 37% of residential members reported a decrease in buyer interest

At the same time, 69% of NAR members in the residential real estate market reported no change in the number of homes for sale in the market.

• **What's the takeaway from these statistics?**

July Flower Larkspur

KEYWORLD

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If you do decide that now is a good to buy, you'll still find a pretty good supply of housing inventory to choose from, even in Bergen County(!)

Even though a shortage in housing supply has been an issue here and elsewhere across the country, with demand beginning to slacken up, you should be able to find what you're looking for.

And you won't face as much competition. Buyer interest is decreasing, likely from those who are worried about job security and their general financial standing.

In real estate markets (*like ours*) where you might have faced bidding wars with homebuyers, you may find you're the only one putting up an offer during this time.

This would also mean that you'll be dealing with someone who has likely become a motivated seller due to current circumstances. The buying power and negotiating power will, at last, be in your hands.

• **A Recession Will Slow the Growth of Home Prices.**

Real estate experts have released their US housing market predictions 2020 for home prices and how they are likely to be affected by the coronavirus's impact on homes and the economy.

The general consensus of experts from Zillow and NAR is that home prices will remain steady. This means it could be a good time to invest in real estate before area home prices continue on their normal trajectory and go up.

At the same time, if you do find yourself dealing with a motivated seller during these tough times, you're more apt to benefit from a reduction in price.

But understand that these home price forecasts are preliminary. A recession could cause home prices to drop. So, is a recession a good time to buy a house? It is you're looking for a good, safe investment for your money these days...

• **Right Now, Real Estate Offers Stability That Stocks Cannot.**

The sudden toll that Covid 19 has taken on the stock market just reminds us how volatile it is. Real estate property is an investment that is, in these times, more controllable and versatile than stocks or bonds. It's also a tangible asset and – for everyone who owns a home – a source of pride!

Mary Ellen Courtney is owner of Real Living Gateway Realtors, 201-288-0004. [www.GatewayToHomes.com](http://www.GatewayToHomes.com) ###

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# Artful Thinking

By Artie Maglionico • Lodi Historian

Hello everyone! Welcome to summer 2020, the summer of overcoming! I'm writing this column in mid-May so I'm not sure as to how the month of July will find us. Let's hope that we can all be found enjoying and Independence Day celebration with our friends and loved ones. Let the only thing six-feet away be the outdoor grill and ice chest filled with frosty summer brews and other beverages of your choice.

Fireworks? Well as I write this 4th of July Fireworks are "still up in the air" (*thank you*).

The only thing I can be certain about, and it is the only thing, is the 4th falls on a Saturday. Thank heaven for the sure thing! It don't come easy.

Congrats are in order for the graduating class of 2020. A year they will not soon forget. Just as they were preparing for that magic carpet ride to graduation when the "rug" was pulled out from under them. When they recovered, they found themselves separated from one another...how sad!

When I was a senior I recall those last few months of school as being a time when everyone grew closer together. I guess it was because we knew the care-free trip through dreamland was coming to an end. Soon we'd all be scattering in different directions. At least we got to share those fleeting moments with the kids we came to know over the past four years. Some of my closest friendships were formed during those last few weeks before graduation.

The Class of 2020 had it cut short. Sports, proms, school projects, social gatherings, all gone in the blinking of an eye. Students were dazed by the unthinkable series of events that they were facing. But I'll tell you folks, these students shook it off and were determined to finish what they started. Not only that, instead of being consumed by depression and emptiness, these youngsters rose to the occasion, stepped forward and lent a helping hand.

The Class of 2020, though separated, became closer still

and shall remain that way forever in the shadows of time. God Bless them and so too their teachers.

Recently while power walking my way down Farnham Avenue in Lodi, I heard someone at a piano playing, of all things, "Jingle Bells." My guess was that I was listening to a child whose musical skills were in the earlier stages of development. The notes were being played one key at a time. Even so, it made the tune no less enjoyable.

The melody was as clear and as brisk as the night sky on Christmas Eve. My friend, Marie Stien, would have loved it. Hearing it lifted me from the dark, hefty events weighing me down. Oh that reminds, as of July 1, 2020, there are 178 "Jingle Bell" days till Christmas. I knew that would cheer you up.

Hey folks, I'd like to say hello to the newest members of The Artful Thinking Family. They are Joyce Knapp and Pam Swanson of Warwick, NY, Michelle Lembo of, wait a minute, Pasadena, California? How did this column make it to California you ask? By wagon train of course!

Where was I? Oh yea, Maureen Della Rudolph of Lodi is among the newest readers to find a home in this column. Back in the early 60s me and the kids from Westervelt Place used to take a time out from running ourselves ragged by watching her future husband, James, tend to his pigeons.

We used to sit in his back yard and watch James climb those red brick steps into the coop and let the birds escape into the open air. They literally flew the coop. What amazed us was they always came back.

"Why wouldn't they come back?" said James. They are getting free room and board."

James passed away a few years ago and though the pigeon coop is gone, those red brick steps remain thanks to his loving wife Maureen.

That's it for now folks, have a healthy and safe 4th of July. *Stay Strong.* ###

# Historically Speaking

By James J. Halloran



## Fireworks And The Fourth Of July

What would the Fourth of July be without fireworks? How did fireworks become synonymous with this great American holiday?

Twelve colonies voted on July 2, 1776 for independence. New York would cast their vote "Yea" on July 9. John Adams wrote to his wife on July 3, that July 2 would always be remembered with pomp and parade, guns, games, bells and illuminations (*fireworks*). The Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. This date became our national holiday.

John Adams refused to celebrate on the Fourth. He held that July 2, 1776 was the proper date of independence. It was ironic that fifty years later he would die on July 4, 1826. The first use of fireworks was recorded in both Philadelphia and Boston on July 4, 1777. It has been a tradition ever since. Because of safety concerns, cannon and gunfire have been phased out.

The Chinese are credited with the invention of fireworks. Around the 13th century, this was introduced into Europe. At some point, this technology would be weaponized to create guns and explosive rockets.

European rulers were strong supporters and users of fireworks. The first report of the use of fireworks in England, was the wedding of King Henry VIII, in 1486. These were only loud bangs and flashes. Other monarchs would use them to celebrate victories and the birth of their children. The first use

of pyrotechnics in the New World is credited to Captain John Smith, in 1608, at Jamestown Colony.

The development of colored pyrotechnics was pioneered by Italian chemists about 1830. They added trace amounts of various metals to achieve different colors. This has been improved upon to what is seen today.

However, improper use by the general population has led to strict regulations on the possession and use of pyrotechnic devices. In 2018, there were 5,600 injuries, to include burns, amputations and shrapnel in-

juries. There were also four people killed. Fireworks account for 18,000 fires each year, averaging over \$42,000,000 in damages.

Hasbrouck Heights Police Chief Michael Colaneri reminds the community that his and every other police department will be strictly enforcing all laws and regulations covering pyrotechnic devices. To find out what is legal and illegal, go to [www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov](http://www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov).

*Have a Happy FOURTH and be SAFE. ###*

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W-R Memorial Foundation  
Award \$50,000 in Scholarships

President Paul Calocino, of the Wood-Ridge Memorial Foundation, is pleased to announce that 19 Wood-Ridge graduating High School Seniors have received a total of \$50,000 in scholarships from the Foundation.

From Bergen Tech Teterboro: \$5,000 Brandon Greenaway, \$2,500 Loreanna Caputi, Bergen Tech Paramus \$2,000 Nicholas Fallon, Bergen County Academies \$4,000 Olivia Madajczyk.

From Wood-Ridge High School: \$5,000 Christina Vasquez; \$4,000 Maria Tevletidis, Shaye Whaley; \$2,500 Jillian Hynes, Anthony Finke, Jason Lopez, Isabella Iacovino; \$2,000 Kylie Wasserman, Michael Latoracco, Madylin Marino; \$1,500 Victoria Tomeczyk, Angela Picneo, Erica DiMarco, Mia Nebab-Perez, Lyndsey Scherdel.

These memorial awards are presented in the names of some of the most distinguished citizens in the history of the Borough. Established in 1962, the Foundation has now made

awards totaling over a million dollars.

Also announced, the annual Dinner Dance, scheduled for this past March, will now be held on Friday, September 25, 2020 at The Fiesta. The Foundation will honor Bonnie Campagna, Elizabeth Ferry, Debra Greenaway, Melanie Rose-Rella and Andrea and Ed Marino.

For information, call Dinner Chairman Jack Nagel at 201-641-2803 or email janpro911@aol.com ###

Legion Announces  
Scholarship Winner

The Robert G. Flannery Scholarship was awarded by the American Legion James B. Scarr Post 106 in Hasbrouck Heights, to senior, Chiara Blaise Colletti, this year's winner of their \$1,000 scholarship.

Chiara was one of six candidates for this scholarship. The committee's selection was based on academic merit and financial need. Chiara also had to submit a list of her activities in the school, community or Church, along with two essays of no more than 100 words each. The first describing why she chose the career she had selected; and the second why she should receive the award.

Chiara will be attending Pennsylvania State Altoona in September to pursue a degree in Early Childhood Education/ Special Education. *Provided by Peter Gallo Jr. ###*

W-R Lions Announce  
2020 Fund Raising  
Distribution and  
Scholarship Recipients

Wood-Ridge Lions Club President Mark Czarnecki, is pleased to announce the completion of a rather unusual and difficult year.

Due to the outbreak of Covid 19, the Club had to cancel the Annual Pancake Breakfast, Golf Outing and Blind Seal Campaign.

Despite these setbacks, the Club was still able to distribute over \$35,000 to the organizations that count on their support.

Significant contributions were made to St. Joseph's School for the Blind, Camp Marcella, Gus Hoene Rehabilitation Center, The Foundation for Fighting Blindness, Juvenile Diabetes, The Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey and at Thanksgiving, the Bergen County Center for Food Action.

In addition, the Club continued to support The Wood-Ridge Library, the W-R PBA Vest Fund, the D.A.R.E. Program, the W-R Little League, Special Olympics, and other local needs.

High School seniors from Wood-Ridge and Moonachie also received scholarships from the Club. An award of \$1,500 was presented to Loreanna Caputi, Bergen County Technical School in Teterboro. Awards of \$1,250 were presented to: Kylie Wasserman, WRHS, Anthony Finke, WRHS and Nicholas Fallon, Bergen County Technical School Paramus. Also, an award of \$1,000 was presented to Moonachie resident, Toral Patel, WRHS. The Club members congratulate all of the 2020 graduates that have had to endure a most difficult and challenging final four months of high school.

The annual Installation Night Dinner, originally scheduled for June, has been moved to Thursday, September 17, 2020 when the Club will begin their 81st year of service. New Club President Bob Caruso will be sworn in along with a new slate of officers. *Provided by Jack Nagel. ###*



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## Firefighters Remember Their Own

Firefighters' remembrances varied. All placed wreaths. Some, a simple recognition by their Chiefs. A few held modified ceremonies. A couple of Departments broadcasted their service.



WRFD held a modified ceremony with a Facebook broadcast. Photo by Dennis Kronyak Sr. ###



Carlstadt Fire Chiefs placed wreaths with a "Hand Salute." Photo by Dennis Kronyak Sr. ###



**William Oosterwyk, Jr., "Ozzie,"** 73, passed on April 29, 2020. At the age of 21 he joined the Carlstadt Fire Department and served for 32 years. He also served with the Wallington Fire Department for 3 years. He was a member and officer of 705 Emergency Squad and an Exempt Fireman. The Department gave their final salute during a Drive By on May 6, 2020. Photo by Dennis Kronyak Sr. ###



**Frank M. Corso, Jr.,** 94, was a lifelong resident of Lodi. He served in the Marine Corps, participating in the Battle of Okinawa. He worked as a Fire Prevention Specialist in Lodi for 20 years, retiring in 2012. Frank joined Lodi Fire Company #1 in 1948 and remained an active member, recently celebrating 72 years of service. He was the oldest and longest serving member. Positions include Fire Chief, Secretary, Chaplain and President of the Lodi Exempt Fireman's Association, etc. He was Fireman of the Year in 1987. On May 13, 2020, the Lodi Fire Department honored Frank with his "Final Call." ###



## Fire Destroys Jim Dandy's BBQ

On May 13, 2020, at about 2:30 a.m., a three-alarm fire broke out at Jim Dandy's BBQ Restaurant (known as "The Home of Killer Ribs"), on Park Avenue, Rutherford. Fire companies were dispatched for a water flow activation. On arrival, smoke was showing from the building. A second alarm was transmitted, bringing Mutual Aid to the scene from Wallington, East Rutherford, North Arlington, Lyndhurst, Passaic and Wood-Ridge. As entry was made to the restaurant, fire was discovered in the kitchen ventilation system, extending to the cockloft area of the building. Hand lines were put in place from the interior and the roof to knock down and contain the fire. The fire was under control in about 45 minutes. It is suspected that the fire started in the kitchen area. Sprinklers held the fire initially. Fire officials do not believe the fire was suspicious. No injuries were reported. Stand by companies on the third alarm were from Secaucus, Carlstadt and North Arlington. Residents living in apartments next to the restaurant were evacuated as a precaution. The Mambo Tea House restaurant next door to the restaurant sustained significant water damage, and a dry cleaner business had minor water damage. Provided by Damien Danis. ###

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## Hot Wire Lights Up Westervelt Place

On Westervelt Place in Lodi, NJ, on Sunday, May 3, 2020, there was a power line down in front of a home. The fire did not spread and was held to the outside of the home. Chief requested Mutual Aid in case of a house fire. Assistance from Wallington, Garfield, Saddle Brook, Rochelle Park and Wood-Ridge, standing by on scene. Provided by Damien Danis. ###



On May 14, 2020, the Wood-Ridge Fire Department was dispatched to a house fire on 4th Street. It was reported the fire started in the 2nd floor bathroom and extended to the roof. A 5" supply line to Engine One fed an attack line into the house and a line outside the house. The ladder truck extended to the roof for firefighters to vent. Carlstadt, Hasbrouck Heights, Moonachie and Wallington Fire Departments assisted. W-R EMS supported the operation. *Photos by Dennis Kronyak Sr. ###*



On June 2, 2020, the Wallington Fire Department quickly responded to a possible grease fire on Main Avenue, Wallington. *Photo by Patti Bonczkowski. ###*



**Moonachie Fire  
Draws 3rd Alarm**

On Monday May 18, 2020, at 16:39 hours, the Moonachie Fire Department was summoned for smoke coming from a home on Joseph Street. Moonachie Police Department Officer Sean Mulligan noticed the smoke during his patrol, and alerted the MPD Dispatcher to dispatch the MFD.

MFD Units were on scene quickly and encountered a large amount of smoke and fire in the area above the ceilings, as well as the walls. Companies went to work conducting a primary search, fire attack, and ventilation, as well as laddering the building. Four hoselines were stretched and put into operation.

Command requested a second alarm to the scene. This brought units from Wood-Ridge, Little Ferry, Carlstadt, South Hackensack and Hasbrouck Heights Fire Departments to assist.

Additionally, a third alarm was called to cover the Borough. This included units from Wallington and East Rutherford Fire Departments. The Moonachie First Aid & Rescue Squad assisted with a rehab area.

Three firefighters sustained minor injuries, one of whom was transported to the hospital where he was treated and released.

The cause of the fire was accidental, and had to do with the use of a propane torch on a home improvement project.

*Photos by Damien Danis.  
Story by Chris Halloran. ###*



Hasbrouck Heights Captain Mike Greco after some labor intensive firefighting involving a Moonachie home on May 18. *Photo by Ron Jeffers. ###*



Carlstadt Firefighter Re-canati takes a break after battling a dwelling fire on Joseph Street, Moonachie on May 18. *Photo by Ron Jeffers. ###*

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