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ANGEL TREE - EACH ORNAMENT IS FOR A CHILD IN NEED

Florham Park Rotary Club

Florham Park and surrounding community residents once again have the opportunity to have a positive impact on the lives of area children in need through the Florham Park Rotary Angel

The Angel Tree was decorated and placed at the Florham Park Post Office at 187 Columbia Turnpike on Friday, Nov. 25 and will remain until December 20.

Coordinated through the East Morris office of the state Division of Child Protection and Permanency, formerly known as the DYFS child welfare agency, local children's gift wishes are written on each ornament and hung on the tree.

"The people of Florham Park do a fantastic job," shared Florham Park Rotary President Simone Campbell, who helped to organize the annual event. "Some of these gifts are real needs, like diapers or a winter coat. Some of them, the people of Florham Park really go above and beyond. I remember one year a kid asked for a mountain bike and somebody bought him a mountain bike."

He said about 100 or more ornaments hang from the tree each year – a reminder that even in a wealthy area like eastern Morris County, there are many children and families in need.

He encouraged residents to visit the Post Office, take a look at the Angel Tree, and see which gift request strikes them.

A few examples from previous years of what children have asked for are:

2-year-old male – Winter coat, hat, gloves, scarf, boots, learning/coloring activity books, tactile leap pad, educational toys, ShopRite gift card for groceries;

13-month-old male – Diapers (size 5), Baby Shark toys, Crayola color wonder markers/sets, bath/shower markers/crayons, balls;

5-year-old female – Hannah Montana dolls, toys, kitchen toys, anything with unicorns, ageappropriate books (she loves to be read to), anything for pretend play;

12-year-old female – Clothing (girls size 7/8), nail polish kit, sneakers (girls 7), hygiene items, winter coat, boots, hat, glove, scarf, anything for



(above) Rotarians Peter Nicolas, Betty O'Brien, Bob Feid, the Angel Tree will be at the Florham Park Post Office until December 20.

Courtesy photo

drawing, coloring or painting.

Rotarian Bob Feid reminds that in many cases this is the only thing a child may receive during the holiday season.

Residents may select an ornament from the Angel Tree and return with that wrapped gift by Wednesday, December 20.

ABOUT ROTARY

Rotary International is a nonpolitical and nonsectarian organization open to all people regardless of race, color, creed, religion, gender, or political preference. There are 35,000 clubs dedicated to bringing together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and to advance goodwill and peace around the world.

To learn more about the local Florham Park Rotary, guests are welcome to join a weekly Rotary breakfast meeting at the Florham Park Diner at 182 Ridgedale Ave. Meetings are 7:47 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. every Friday.

For more information and to learn about other community projects and Florham Park Rotarians, visit FlorhamParkRotary.com or email Membership Chair George Gregor at ggregor@florhamparkrotary.com or Sergeant-at-Arms Peter Nicolas at pnicolas@florhamparkrotary.com.



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LET LOVE IGNITE - HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST

Halos for Angels, a Florham Park 501(c)3 charity, is sponsoring "Let Love Ignite," their annual holiday house decorating contest to raise funds for local families in need due to a sudden tragedy. A cash prize will be awarded to the winner of the contest on January 4th - the amount determined by the number of entries. Decorate the front of your home to showcase your spirit of love this holiday season. A photo submission is required and due no later than December 28th along with the application and tax deductible

Halos for Angels, a Florham Park 501(c)3 entry fee of \$50. Visit their website at arity, is sponsoring "Let Love Ignite," their halosforangels.org to enter.

From December 29 to January 3, all members of the community are invited to vote for their favorite decorated house by going to halosforangels.org, go to the events tab, and click on "Let Love Ignite Contest." Each house photo will be uploaded to the website for review by the community-at-large. This is a wonderful opportunity to create a family activity and help those in need during the holiday season.







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SCAN HERE

(above) Elizabeth Hunt

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LOCAL AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING

Submitted by Dr Barbara B Tamburro

Local author Elizabeth Hunt will be signing her newly published book, "When Life Begins and Ends: Reflections on Healing and Rising Above Loss," a collection of prose and poetry reflecting her own experiences dealing with debilitating grief and loneliness after the passing of both her parents by the age of 21, and her journey towards acceptance, healing and peace.

As a young girl, Lizzy was an avid volunteer with Halos For Angels (HFA), a Florham Park based charity that supports those who suffer a sudden tragedy, never imagining that she and her three siblings would soon become recipients of the same organization for which she volunteered. With the launch of the charity in 2010, Lizzy was among a group of children who designed the logo for Halos. She worked at the annual Fright Factor helping as an actress/makeup artist and in various

capacities at fund raising events. Upon graduation, she was the recipient of the Akhouri Foundation Scholarship presented at the annual HFA Gala.

On December 3, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Holy Family Church, 1 Lloyd Road, Florham Park, meet Elizabeth at her table in the auditorium during the Annual Holy Family Christmas Craft Show where she will have books for purchase. Proceeds at the signing will benefit Halos For Angels. Her book may also be purchased on amazon at amazon.com/dp/BOB6XMWKFT. You can find Liz and her writings on Instagram at @lizunlost. Her inspirational story will warm the reader's heart.

To find out more about Halos For Angels, Inc . visit their website at halosforangels.org.





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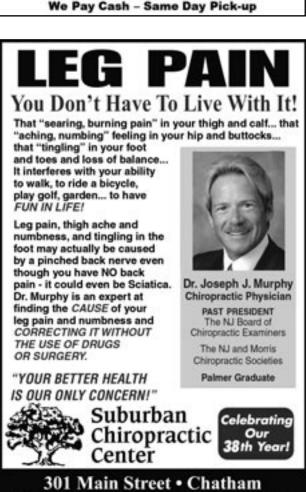
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GIRL SCOUTS THANK LEGIONNAIRES

Submitted by Maryann Doherty

American Legion Post #43 Commander Joe Nester and Past Commander Bob Holtz accepted "Thank You for Your Service" cards and red, white and blue decorations for the Post Home from leader, Ginny Houle, of Girl Scout Troop # 60561, sponsored by St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Hillsborough, N. J.

Ginny has been a member of Auxiliary Unit #43 since birth and volunteers at the church as a Girl Scout leader and a CCD teacher for special needs children. The Legionnaires were also happy to accept home baked brownies for their enjoyment after the Veterans' Day Services held on 11/11/22.



TREE LIGHTING ON DECEMBER 2

All residents are invited to attend the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Florham Park Community Center. The event will be held Friday, December 2nd beginning at 6:30 p.m.. Hope you can attend and participate in this time honored tradition in Florham Park. Immediately following the Tree Lighting Ceremony, pictures with Santa, sponsored by Regal Bank, will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. Pictures will be taken by David Kramer Photography. Lite refreshments will be served.

MENORAH LIGHTING ON DECEMBER 20

The Florham Park Annual Menorah Lighting will take place on Tuesday, December 20 at 6 p.m. The menorah is located in front of the Gazebo at 111 Ridgedale Ave. in Florham Park. The ceremony will be celebrated by Cantor Jonathan Comisar, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Torah in Florham Park, who will lead the community in lighting the Hanukkah candle with the assistance of the children from Congregation Beth Torah's Religious School. Rabbi Shalom Lubin, of Chabad of SE Morris County, will also participate in the ceremony.

The lighting of the Hanukkah Menorah is always a festive occasion and we always enjoy the singing of songs and of course the eating the traditional "latkes". It is a fun evening for all. Hope to see you there! All are welcome!

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HANUKAH: A HOLIDAY OF LIGHTS AND MIRACLES

Submitted by Rabbi Paul David Kerbel

Hanukah is a 'major' Jewish holiday. You might be surprised by that. Most rabbis and Jewish educators would say just the opposite, that Hanukah is a 'minor' Jewish holiday. From the perspective of religious Jewish law, Hanukah does not have the same religious significance of Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year), Yom Kippur (our Day of Atonement and forgiveness), Passover (our Festival of Freedom), Shavuot (the holiday where we celebrate the revelation of the Five Books of Moses), and Sukkot (our Fall festival celebrating the end of the summer harvest and our relationship with God).

Hanukah is a 'major' Jewish holiday culturally and ethnically. One of the ways we can understand any religion is not just what the religion 'teaches' but what its followers actually observe and practice. More Jews observe Hanukah than any other ritual, other than participating in a Passover Seder. Part of Hanukah's 'popularity' is that it falls in the Jewish calendar between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Hanukah represents a powerful response to the feelings of exclusion and of being a minority in the larger Christian culture of America and allows members of the Jewish community to celebrate its own traditions and be proud of the Jewish heritage even as the airwaves, malls and TV commercials are filled with the sounds and traditions of Christmas.

But regardless of where Hanukah falls in the calendar, I would suggest the following four reasons why Hanukah is a 'major' Jewish holiday and has lessons for both Jews and our non-Jewish neighbors to learn from share:

- 1. Hanukah represents the first victory in human history for religious freedom. Had the Jewish Maccabees not won their war with the Greek/Syrian kingdom, Judaism may have died out and Christianity and Islam, both of which have roots in Judaism, may never have developed. The Jewish people celebrate the value for all of us to celebrate our respective religious traditions.
- 2. Hanukah teaches us religious tolerance and to celebrate diversity and pluralism. As America becomes more diverse and welcomes citizens of many different religions from around the world, we learn from each other and how much we have in common.
- 3. Hanukah reinforces the ability and opportunity of each minority to teach, learn and celebrate its religious traditions and its principles and unique ethnic and religious identity while we all share and believe in the values of freedom and democracy.
- 4. Hanukah reminds us of the modern-day miracles that we have participated in: the redemption of over one million Jews from

the former Soviet Union who were not allowed to learn about their Jewish faith and practice Judaism while under Communist rule; the rescue and welcoming of over 100,000 Jews from Ethiopia and the rescue and of endangered Jews and other Jewish communities around the world. We must always be prepared to deliver the few from the many, the weak from the mighty and the righteous from the wicked.

Finally, I would like to share that the word "Hanukah" means 'dedication' and comes from the same Hebrew word as 'education.' Hanukah is about making sure that we maintain our Jewish identity, that we teach our children, the values, the history, the rich heritage which is ours to embrace and pass on to the next generation. May the lights of our Hanukah menorah symbolize our love for Judaism, our right to practice Judaism as a minority while at the same time, sharing symbols of light and the theme of miracles with those who celebrate Christmas even as all of us strive to make the world a better place. For our Jewish tradition has taught us this eternal message: "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

Happy Hanukah and Happy Holidays to all! Rabbi Paul Kerbel is the spiritual leader of Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim in Cranford and the current chair of the Cranford Clergy Council.





Annual Christmas Tree Lighting



All residents are invited by Mayor Taylor to attend the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Florham Park Community Center. The event will be held Friday, December 2nd at 6:30 p.m., special guest carolers, the Florham Park Girl Scouts.

Hope you can attend and participate in this time honored tradition in Florham Park.

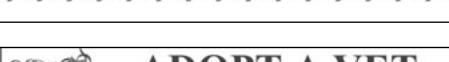
Immediately following the Tree Lighting Ceremony, pictures with Santa sponsored by Regal Bank will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. Pictures will be taken by David Kramer Photography

LITE REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! QUESTIONS?? CALL DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR JOHN TIMMONS AT 973-410-5390



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!





ADOPT A VET FOR CHRISTMAS

Our flyer goes out this year to all the wonderful supporters who have helped the Lyon's veterans for past 5 years. We had to skip last year due to Covid. Outsiders were not allowed in the building, so we were put on hold.

However, we are excited this year to at least be able to help them in other ways.

This year's Adopt A Vet For Christmas fundraiser will be used for Christmas ... along with a full year of your support.

Your donations will be used not only to buy Christmas presents and "special food and sweets" for the other yearly holidays, but also to help stock the kitchen they use on their unit.

Many of the vets love to make their own meals (that's no surprise!), and have to contribute their own money for many of the items they need to buy.

Your donations are also used for trips to Costco, "Veteran" hats, beautiful enamel dogtags, and other military items we buy for them.

Most of these brave heroes are from the Afghan and Iraq wars. It's been especially hard for them this year, due to all that has transpired lately.

They are so appreciative of the kindness and support from all of you...who have made their stay at Lyons at bit nicer.

As you know, our volunteer list is comprised of Berkeley Heights VFW vets...and me! There are NO saleries, NO overhead, and NO expenses. EVERY dollar you donate will be used on our PTSD program at Lyons.

Please share the holidays...and your love...with our nation's heroes. They have given so much to keep us safe.

Thank you for caring about our vets!

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FLINTLOCKS SCOUTER GROUP LIVES BY THE SCOUT LAWS

scouters who dedicate their time and talents to building and maintaining the scout camps of the Patriot's Path Boy Scout Council in northern New Jersey.

The group includes some tradesmen, but also professionals and volunteers of every background. Most are retired, but some still work full-time, and occasionally people volunteer to help for a day here or there. It is a very friendly group with great camaraderie and a good sense of humor. When one member reached age 100, they designated a parking spot reserved for "all Flintlocks over 100 years old". Two other members are 90 years old, but they will have to wait a while before parking in that spot.

The Flintlocks met for their Fall General Meeting on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at their workshop at Camp Winnebago in Rockaway, NJ. They reviewed the accomplishments of the previous year and discussed future projects the Council needs to have done. Some of the future projects include installing new windows in the dining hall, building a pavilion near the trading post, collecting Toys for Tots; and making craft kits and Pinewood Derby cars for special needs children.

The Patriot's Path Council of the Boy Scouts of America encompasses 5 counties in central and northern New Jersey: Middlesex; Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Union. The Council website is ppcbsa.org. There are 11,000 scouts who use the camps in this council.

In spite of their name, the Flintlocks have nothing to do with antique firearms, although some of the old guys are considered "antiques". They meet every Thursday at Camp Winnebago, Rockaway, NJ, all year round, and guests are always welcome. They are organized as a 501c3 nonprofit corporation. All of the members are registered with the BSA, take CPR and AED training, and are vaccinated for COVID.

More than half of the Flintlocks have been awarded the prestigious Silver Beaver Award, which is the highest National Award for a

The Flintlocks, BSA, Inc. are a group of retired volunteer in the Scouting Program. They usually provide approximately 5,000 hours of volunteer skilled labor every year, saving the Council close to \$250,000 of labor costs.

> In the past, the Flintlocks have built cabins, picnic tables, painted the dining hall, built the archery range, built all the structures at the waterfront, financed, built and equipped the STEM Lab at Allamuchy Scout Reservation, financed and built an addition to the Wink Dousa Cabin, and repaired damage to camp structures.

In addition to building structures and doing repairs and maintenance, they also volunteer at many Council programs throughout the year. One popular program for Cub Scouts for which the Flintlocks volunteer is called "For the Birds". The children learn about birds and build birdhouses and bird feeders.

The Facebook Page is "Flintlocks". Guests are always welcome. For more information contact Secretary Michael Dr. Hart drmhart@yahoo.com.



(above) The Flintlocks BSA, Inc. members showing the signs representing the 12 points of the Scout Law. They tease one member for always being seen with a coffee cup in his hand, so they made him a sign reading "coffee". These signs will be posted at the Allamuchy Scout Reservation in Byram, NJ, located near Waterloo Village.

Courtesy photo





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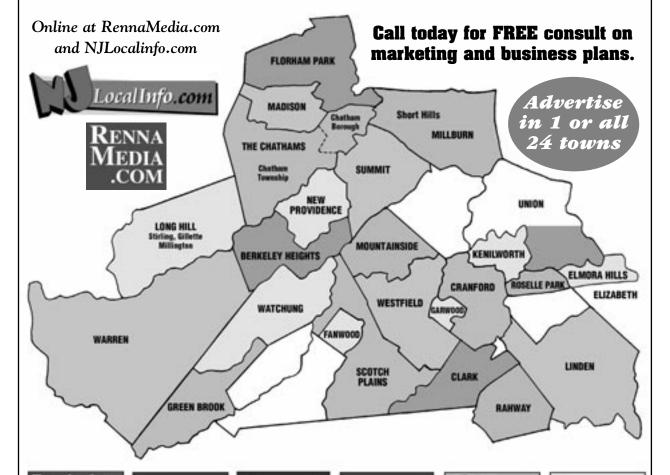
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100-YEAR-OLD WWII VETERAN HONORED

County of Morris

Gerald "Gerry" Gemian, a World War II veteran who turned 100 years old this past summer, was honored on October 12 by the Morris County Board of County Commissioners at a celebration organized by more than two dozen friends and fellow veterans at the Montville Memorial VFW Post 5481.

Commissioner Thomas Mastrangelo presented the veteran with a special Morris County "Resolution of Honor" that recognized not only his 100th Birthday on August 25, but also his military service to the people of the United States.

"Thank you. Thank you very much. I'm honored," Mr. Gemian said, as the group sat down to a luncheon hosted by the Commissioner.

"We need to thank you, Gerry. We need to thank you and your entire generation for the

sacrifices you made in defense of our nation," said Commissioner Mastrangelo. "On behalf of the County Board of Commissioners, I present you with this resolution."

Mr. Gemian was joined by his son, Gary Gemian, a Lincoln Park councilman. The group of friends and fellow veterans also posed for photos next to a tank outside the VFW Hall.

Mr. Gemian enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942 and served in WWII as a combat radio operator, Staff Sergeant Technician 3rd Grade in the Central Pacific theater from 1942 to 1945 with the Joint Assault Signal Company. He was attached to the 7th, 27th and 81st U.S. Army Divisions, as well as with the 1st, 2nd and 4th U.S. Marine Divisions during his tours against Japanese forces, which included the Marshall Islands Campaign and the invasions of both the Kwajalein and Eniwetok Atoll Groups.



(above) Commissioner Mastrangelo talks to the gathering of veterans and friends after presenting Mr. Gemian (center) with a Morris County "Resolution of Honor."

It was some of the bloodiest and deadliest episodes of the entire war, and Mr. Gemian's service included landings in the Mariana Islands and Palau Islands during the "Island Hopping" campaign of Admiral Chester William Nimitz, Commander in Chief of the Pacific Ocean Areas. But Mr. Gemian managed to survive without being wounded.

When asked by a CBS News reporter this summer about his longevity and never being wounded, despite multiple battles, Mr. Gemian said: "One thing that always sustained me is: keep going, keep going. No matter what happens, or what the hell happened, I always managed to move somehow or another."

While transitioning out of military service, Mr. Gemian married his wife, Liz, and the couple moved in 1977 to Montville, where she later passed in 2021 at the age of 98. Mr. Gemian worked in the defense industry after the war, establishing a career at Curtis-Wright Corporation and ITT Avionics in contract administration.

The Board of County Commissioners' "Resolution of Honor" declared that Mr. Gemian's words about "keep going" should serve as an inspiration to us all. The resolution also said he must be congratulated on his longevity, commended for his distinguished military service and blessed with continued long life and happiness.



(above) Many of Mr. Gemian's fellow veterans and friends joined him as Commissioner Mastrangelo presented the Morris County "Resolution of Honor."

Photos by County of Morris

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