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## A PHONE CALL CAN SAVE A VETERAN'S LIFE

*Michael D. Boll, President, NJVN*

Every year we honor the fallen, who have sacrificed their lives so we can live in the best country in the world. Please reflect on the service our heroes perform to keep us safe and protect our way of life. This Memorial Day we are asking people to call and check on our active duty soldiers and veterans that have served. Every day we lose twenty-two veterans to suicide and 40 percent of veterans that return from combat are diagnosed with PTSD. Unfortunately, this number has not changed much, and we feel that recreational therapy and peer support can really make a difference for our veterans living in crisis. The New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) is fully committed to combat this epidemic by aggressively seeking out veterans in need. Our goal is to contact the veteran before they fall into a deep state of depression and provide them lifesaving and lifechanging resources.

Over the last few years, the NJVN has been able to provide thousands of meals to our veterans and active duty soldiers. Thousands of veterans were given new suits and clothing from our storage area, over thirty newly refurbished automobiles were gifted to disabled veterans, and the most important thing the NJVN does is save lives through our peer support /mentorship program.

The NJVN works from the heart and is therefore able to work with all the other amazing veteran charities that share the same common goal, putting veterans first. Our donations go directly to the veteran's programs, which allows us to assist veterans and their families throughout the entire state and host numerous recreational therapy activities as well. This year we are starting up a few veterans' retreats and will focus on increasing events at our state veteran hospitals and shelters.

We are always looking for volunteers that can both assist with upcoming events and help mentor veterans so they can live better productive lives. Volunteers are the most important NJVN resource, and we would love to have more people help us save lives. If you need assistance or are interested in joining the team, please send us your name, email, and phone number to NJVN1775@gmail.com or call 973-332-1556. Check out our website NJVN.org for our services and accomplishments.

## MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Florham Park participates in Madison's Memorial Day events which begin at 8:00 a.m. at the WWII and Korea War memorials located at James Park. This will be followed by the ceremony at Conduro Park WWI Memorial. The parade will step off from Conduro Park at 9:00 a.m., continuing east on Main Street to Prospect Street, and concluding with a solemn remembrance ceremony on the steps of the Hartley Dodge Memorial (Borough Hall) on Kings Road.

Special seating arrangements for Gold Star Mothers will be available at the Hartley Dodge/Borough Hall portion of the ceremony.



(above) New Jersey Veterans Network veterans and volunteers at a recent event.



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# Florham Park Press NJ

Renna Media LLC, Publishers  
202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

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## SEND US YOUR NEWS

Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (accomplishment, honor, award, etc.), send us your news!

Email: [editor@rennamedia.com](mailto:editor@rennamedia.com)

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[facebook.com/ Florham Park Press](https://facebook.com/FlorhamParkPress)

# ROSE CITY RUNNERS WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Attention Morris area runners! Whether or not you are affiliated with a running club come check out the Rose City Runners! We meet every Saturday morning at the Kitchell Rd. parking area of nearby Loantaka Brook Reservation in Morris Township. Meet time is at 8:30 a.m. April-October, and 9 a.m. November-March. We leave promptly so if it's your first time come a little early so you can be introduced.

We share post Saturday run breakfast on a park picnic bench. We even have a fire in the shelter fireplace on cold winter days. We do have other activities including member hosted house parties.

Our USATF racing team competes against other NJ clubs. Racing on the team is an option and not a requirement for membership.

Just come some Saturday! Members run varying paces (including a few walkers) and cover 3-8 miles, much on quiet wooded park trails. We often have turnouts of over 20 runners even on cold days. We have a diversity of ages from 20's to 70's! When park trails are icy or snow covered, we use alternate routes. We are a friendly welcoming group.

Contact [BarbaraRushman@yahoo.com](mailto:BarbaraRushman@yahoo.com) or visit our website [RoseCityRunners.com](http://RoseCityRunners.com) to join or to learn more.



(above) Rose City Runners



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## INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY

### Florham Park Rotary Club

In what has become another annual method of giving back, Florham Park Rotary members volunteered at the Interfaith Food Pantry recently.

Greeted by Interfaith Food Pantry volunteer coordinator, Jayne, the Rotarians were assigned various treats to bag for later distribution to families. "In the past we have sorted fruits and vegetables, stuffed solicitation envelopes, and/or bagged hundreds of groceries for distribution during Thanksgiving," commented Rotarian Peter Nicolas. Nicolas and fellow Rotarian Karol Williams have volunteered at the Food Pantry many times and were both impressed with the newly renovated location, especially with the way this Morris County pantry has become a model for other pantries and the volume of households it can now support.

In 2023, the Interfaith Food Pantry reached a new milestone in the fight against hunger, distributing 2.1 million pounds of food during more than 39,000 household visits to the Pantry. These included low-income workers, seniors living on fixed incomes, and families struggling with economic hardships due to inflation and the end of pandemic-era benefits.

Rotary president Damion Bernard noted that annually there are 26, 000 volunteer hours

donated, and he is proud that the Florham Park Rotary contributes to that.

The Pantry currently has a low supply of the following items:

- Cereal – lower sugar preferred
- Pasta
- Tuna fish, salmon and other canned fish
- Canned meats and meals – ravioli, spaghetti & meatballs, hash, stew, canned chicken, chili, etc.
- Tomato products (sauce, crushed, whole, diced, paste, puree, etc.)
- Rice
- Side Dishes (Macaroni & Cheese, Rice-A-Roni, Instant Potatoes, Hamburger Helper, etc.)
- Canned beans – pork and beans, pinto beans, red or white kidney beans, black beans, etc.; NOT green beans
- Baby food – stages 2 and 3
- Baby diapers – size 3, 4, 5 and 6

\*When shopping, consider low-salt, low-sugar and gluten-free items.

To contact the Interfaith Food Pantry Network: 2 Executive Drive, Morris Plains, NJ 07950, 973-538-8049.

To contact the Florham Park Rotary: email [info@florhamparkrotary.org](mailto:info@florhamparkrotary.org), or visit [florhamparkrotary.org](http://florhamparkrotary.org)

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(above) Rotary President Damion Bernard, longtime member Karol Williams, Professional Photographer and Club Secretary David Kramer; Sergeant-At-Arm Peter Nicolas dedicated their time on Friday afternoon, April 12.

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# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GRADE SCHOOL CHESS TOURNAMENT

Submitted by Joe O'Brien

The Florham Park/Madison Knights of Columbus "Swiss Style" Round Robin Chess Tourney was played on Saturday, April 13th in the Holy Family Gym in Florham Park. This was a true "round robin" in that players played each



(above, l-r) Div A: Lexie Currie: 1st, Madison, Ava Laudicina: 2nd, Florham Park and Mia Marulanda: 3rd, Parsippany.

other and were awarded 2 points for a win, 0 point for a loss, and 1 point for a draw. If a player goes undefeated then the average game/total score (AG/TS) would be a "2"!

A Division: For 6th to 8th graders and fortunately, we had 3 players that were able to play. Lexi Currie, 7th grader, from Madison Junior School, Ava Laudicina, 6th grader, Ridgedale Middle School, Florham Park, and Mia Marulanda, 7th grader, All Saints Academy, Parsippany. Since they had more time, they played more games with each other. Currie took the 1st place trophy with AG/TS of 1.75, Laudicina, took 2nd with .75 and Marulanda, took 3rd, with .67!

B Division: For 3rd to 5th graders had a nice turnout with 15 players! Ritvik Karankal, 5th grader, Brooklake Elementary School (BES), Florham Park, won the 1st place trophy playing the most games at 13. He was undefeated but had one draw, gaining an AG/TS of 1.92! He also was undefeated last year (no draws) winning the division. Ezra Lewis, 5th grader, Central Avenue School (CAS), Madison, was

the player who got the draw with Karankal. He won 2nd place with a 1.70. David Marulanda, 4th grader, East Lake School, Parsippany, took 3rd place with 1.64. Arul Mareeswaran, 5th grader, CAS, took 4th place ribbon, with 1.42. Kelsey Heitzmann, 3rd grader, CAS, took 5th place, with 1.20, and Dominic Ospina, 5th grader, BES, took 6th place with 1.0.

Other fine players in B were Luke Healey-Saint Vincent Martyr School, Madison, Isabella Santibanez -St. Elizabeth, Bernardsville, Kyrie Simonneau and David Murray - both from CAS, Brennan Warner-Thomas Jefferson, Morristown, Teddy Muccifori- TJS, Madison, and Owen Schoenfelder, Calvin Gerber, and Griffin Laudicina, all from BES.

All players received free chess literature, hot dog lunch, chips, cookies, grapes and other refreshments. Joe O'Brien, Tournament Chairman, said, "Win, Lose or Draw", judging by the robust cheers for the winners and all the players at the end of the tourney, showed good sportsmanship was truly displayed by all; and they had a great time!"

Courtesy photos



(above, l-r) Div B: Ritvik Karankal: 1st, Florham Park, Ezra Lewis: 2nd, Madison, David Marulanda: 3rd, Parsippany, Arul Mareeswaran: 4th, Madison, Kelsey Heitzmann: 5th, Madison, and Dominic Ospina: 6th, Florham Park.



(above) The chess players in the 2024 K of C "Round Robin" Chess tournament.

## NAMM BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

"Congratulation to the Ridgedale School's music department, Ms. Lynch and Mr. Leone, the students, board of education and community for their continued support and commitment to music education and to the arts. In my humble opinion, the programs operated within the district spanning from traditional musical instruments and chorus to strings, select choir, handbells and drama performances are second to none and are a credit to the entire community. These programs provide a well-rounded educational experience for our students in Florham Park"

- Dr. Steven Caponegro, Superintendent

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## RENOVATIONS FORTHCOMING FOR LIBRARY CHILDREN'S AREA

The Florham Park Public Library is thrilled to announce that it will be renovating the children's area of the library beginning May 20, 2024. The renovation project includes new carpeting, new shelving and furniture, the incorporation of cozy reading nooks, and the addition of custom storage and play areas to the room.

While the renovation is taking place, the Children's Room will be closed to the public. A temporary browsing collection for children and teens will be housed in the current teen area of the library during this time. The children's area is expected to reopen sometime in July of this year.

The renovation project comes after nearly two years of planning that included community surveys and feedback and an extensive study of

the collections and user behavior in the youth services area of the library. "Over and over again, we heard from community members that they wanted a space that is more interactive, playful, and comfortable for children and their families," said Library Director Nancy Shah of the project. The library has observed a surge in interest and usage of the spaces, collections, and events aimed at young families with children in recent years, which is in line with a nation-wide trend in young people turning to public libraries for recreation and entertainment. "The last two years were our busiest years on record, and young people are driving that uptick in usage," remarked Shah. According to Shah, the Children's Room accounts for 20% of the library's space, and the collections housed there account for 45% of

overall circulation.

The renovated space will optimize the presentation of library materials and make it easier for users to find what they are looking for. The room will be organized so that the front of the space is oriented more toward infants, toddlers, and young children, while activities and collections intended for older children will be located farther back in the room. Throughout the space, a variety of seating options will cater equally to children and their caregivers to ensure people can comfortably enjoy the space and use it for extended periods of time. "People are looking for somewhere to go and hang out, and a public library is the ultimate stop because we have plenty to keep kids occupied and it's all free!" said Shah.



### 3RD EPISODE OF MIND YOUR OWN LOCAL BUSINESS

Renna Media has posted its third episode of "Mind Your Local Business", a podcast that gives advice on how to run a successful local business.

Similar to the newspapers, the show will serve as a venue to support local community service organizations and events and the costs will be covered by advertisers. There are several marketing and advertising opportunities with the freedom to be unique and creative.

To learn more call, 908-447-1295 or email me at [joerenna@rennamedia.com](mailto:joerenna@rennamedia.com).

**Scan QR Code below  
for 3rd Episode of  
Mind Your Own Local  
Business on YouTube.**



## TOWN-WIDE YARD SALE BOOK SALE - MAY 3 & 4

The Florham Park Town-Wide Yard Sale is happening Saturday May 11th from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday, May 12th from noon to 3 p.m. Visit the event website ([florhamparknj.org/yard-sale](http://florhamparknj.org/yard-sale)) the week of the sale to plan your shopping for the weekend. On the website you'll find a Google Map for the event and two printable documents: Participating Addresses by Neighborhood and Items For Sale at each location. The Items For Sale document can be used to find specific items like bikes, toys, and tools. The Google Map pinpoints each sale location. By clicking on the pinpoint, you can see the items advertised by the seller at that address. Sellers have the option of participating one day or both days, so be sure to check the Participating Addresses document to see if the seller is participating for the full weekend, or only Saturday morning. Some sellers will also be hosting their sales rain or shine.

The Town-Wide Yard Sale is scheduled to promote reuse and recycling of items before Heavy Item Pickup in Florham Park. The spring Heavy Item Pickup in 2024 is May 13th. There is a second Heavy Item Pickup in the fall. Call the Department of Public Works (973-410-5330) before noon on Thursday, May 9th to register items for pick up. Please check the event website for the link to the DPW's acceptable items for pick up. Visit the event website: [florhamparknj.org/yard-sale](http://florhamparknj.org/yard-sale)

The Friends of the Florham Park Public Library have been collecting gently used books and media this spring in anticipation of hosting their first ever book sale event. The Book Sale will take place on Friday, May 3 from 5 - 8 p.m. and Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. in the Library's Akhoury Room.

All proceeds from the event will go toward enhancing library programs and services through an investment in the library's summer reading program, museum passes, and free community events held throughout the year!

Items on sale include popular hardcover fiction and nonfiction books, cookbooks, "coffee table" books, puzzles, DVDs, like-new paperback books, and teen and children's books.

The Friday night event is billed as an opening night "presale," with a cover charge of \$20 at the door, which buys entry to the library after hours, a Florham Park Public Library tote bag, first pick of the books on sale, and the first 3 books selected by each person.

On Saturday, all items will be on sale for between \$1 and \$5. A bag sale will be held at 2:30. Bring your own standard grocery-sized tote for \$5 and fill it up!

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## PICKLEBALL FUNDRAISER – MAY 18

### SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB MAY EVENTS

#### CAR SHOW AND FESTIVAL DAY - MAY 8, 2024

Please join us for the Florham Park Senior Citizens Club Car Show and Festival Day on Wednesday, May 8th, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. till 2:30 p.m. This is a fundraiser event for our Seniors Helping Senior Program. The event will be held at the parking lot at the Florham Park Community Center also known as the Recreation Center, (large brown building parking lot), located in the Borough of Florham Park Town Complex, 111 Ridgedale Avenue, Florham Park, N.J.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

Car Show prizes will be donated by our sponsor the Florham Park Liquors Store, located at 184 Columbia Turnpike, under the new ownership of the Patel Family. Additionally 50/50 prize donations will be provided from our local shops, and restaurants.

We will have a fabulous variety of beautiful craft creations for sale that include artist paintings, top quality charcuterie boards, cutting boards, and wood and epoxy tables, home décor items, porch signs, personalized gifts, vintage broaches/ pins, and many more items for sale.

Entertainment will include line dancing demonstrations, and exhibitors focused on senior services, and food vendors.

We are still looking for Cars, for registration request for the Florham Park Senior Citizens Club Car Show and Festival Day please email [florhamparkseniorclub@gmail.com](mailto:florhamparkseniorclub@gmail.com) or stop by the Senior Center. The Florham Park Senior Citizens Club Car Show is open to all Antiques, Customs, Classics, Rods, Special Interests, Street Machines, and Trucks.

#### THE PERFECT DUO - MAY 22, 2024

We are happy to welcome the husband and wife team of Cindy and Mark Slotnick known as the Perfect Duo to the Florham Park Senior Citizens Club on Wednesday, May 22 at 11:00 a.m., Florham Park Community Center/ Recreation Center. They will provide an hour of memorable Rock and Roll songs from the 50's, 60's 70's and more. This will rock and roll the senior club. Looking forward to seeing everyone for a great show. New Members welcome.



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A Pickleball Fundraiser hosted by Halos Jr. board members will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2024, at the Florham Park Tennis Courts. Registration is required. The funds collected will benefit Florham Park based Halos For Angels and will be gifted to the community's families in need due to sudden tragedy. If interested in participating, please email [hfajuniorboard@halosforangels.org](mailto:hfa.juniorboard@halosforangels.org).

The primary purpose of "Halos for Angels, Inc." (HFA) is to nurture its community's "well-being" by extending to its family members temporary relief, comfort, and support when sudden tragedy "hits home." HFA can help with

day-to-day responsibilities by providing transportation services, shopping trips, childcare, daily meals – whatever the need may be, until the families are stronger and back on their feet. For those who suffer emotionally, comforting support and companionship are extended by professionals and volunteers who are honored and most willing to help others in need.

By networking with community families, organizations and volunteers, HFA is "giving back" with temporary services to families as they journey ahead to a stronger, stable environment once again!

## REDUCE, REPAIR AND RECYCLE EVENT

#### Madison Rotary Club

As a service to residents of Madison and surrounding communities, Madison Rotary is inviting the public to its biannual Community Shredding Day, joined by Morris County's first Repair Cafe. The shredding event will take place from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, June 15, 2024, at Madison Municipal Parking Lot #1, at the corner of Prospect Street and Kings Road by the Madison Volunteer Ambulance Corps. The Repair Cafe will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. the same day, inside the Madison Volunteer Ambulance Corps building. This event is central to Rotary International's focus on protecting the environment and furthers our club's mission of partnering with other organizations to keep Madison one of the "Best Places to Live in New Jersey."

The Repair Cafe will be staffed by local volunteer repair experts, making a wide range of repairs, free of charge. People visiting the Repair Cafe should bring along their broken items from

home: lamps, small appliances, clothes and other fabrics, bikes, jewelry, wooden items (like small furniture and frames), knives that need sharpening, toys, crockery, small garden tools, and much much more.

If you are thinking of throwing it away, please stop for a moment, and consider bringing it to the Repair Café. Repairers will work with you to get your items fixed (whenever possible), and will help you to keep it out of the landfill!

Please email, text or call Paul Lemaire at: [pjlema@gmail.com](mailto:pjlema@gmail.com) or (732) 261-6443 if you have questions about the Repair Café, or are interested in volunteering, either as a repairer or to help in the organization and staffing of the event. You will get to learn about the Repair Revolution, and will meet others from your local community.

Please visit [madisonrotarynj.org](http://madisonrotarynj.org) for more information about Madison Rotary.

See [repaircafegs.org](http://repaircafegs.org) for information about Repair Cafés in the Garden State.



(above) Repair volunteer Paul Lemaire (black shirt) with two satisfied Repair Cafe attendees at a repair Cafe in Summit.



(above) Richard Wilcox and Ned Fox fix a rollator for a Summit Repair Cafe attendee at the "bicycle" repair station.

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## TASTE OF FLORHAM PARK –MAY 20

### An Event of the Florham Park Rotary

The Taste of Florham Park is the annual festive food extravaganza that benefits the Florham Park Rotary Scholarship Fund. The Fund rewards Florham Park students who have a record of community volunteerism and who are Seniors in any local high school.

Florham Park's eating establishments graciously provide samples of their best dishes and one can sample pastries from local merchants. Florham Park Liquors greets guests with wine, beer and spirits.

The Taste is a must attend party for food lovers. It is also a celebration and an opportunity to enjoy the evening with family and friends – and neighbors – at a historic mansion.

Tours of the Vanderbilt-Twombly Mansion will be offered throughout the event. Adding to the ambiance of food and history, music by local violinist Marilyn Tepper will waft through the Great Hall of the Mansion.

Event Date and Time: Monday, May 20, 2024, 6-8 p.m. (Tours of the Mansion begin at 5:30 p.m. for early arrivals and continue during the event.)

Event Location: The Vanderbilt-Twombly Mansion is on the campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) in Florham Park. Just a short drive from the center of Florham Park, enter either via Park Avenue or Madison Avenue.

Ticket Prices: General Admission \$50 per person (includes a tour of the Mansion).

Tickets may be purchased at the at the Event,

or by check mailed to Florham Park Rotary, PO Box 40, Florham Park, NJ 07932

More Fun: The Taste of Florham Park includes a "Tricky Tray" with merchandise from many local vendors and other contributors and Event Sponsors. Tricky Tray tickets are sold separately at the entry. \$20 for a book of 20 tickets!

Sponsorship Opportunities: Revenue sources for the Taste are ticket sales, 50/50 Raffles, and Tricky Tray tickets. Local food establishments and other businesses are invited to participate in either the food presentations or in the Tricky Tray and Door Prizes – or both. For further information, please contact Florham Park Rotarians George Gregor (917 848 0982) or Peter Nicolas (973 520 8654).

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*With music by violinist Marilyn Tepper*

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May 20, 2024  
6-8 PM

Fairleigh Dickinson University  
Florham Campus  
175 Park Avenue

Admission: \$50 (includes tour of Vanderbilt Twombly Mansion)

Tickets may be purchased at  
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82 Ridgedale Avenue

or use the QR Code

Tel: 917 848 0982 email: [info@florhamparkrotary.org](mailto:info@florhamparkrotary.org)

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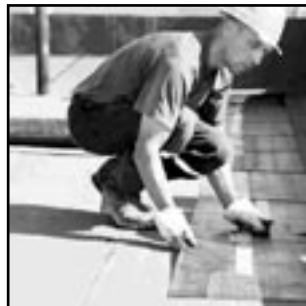
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