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ANGEL TREE PROVIDED GIFTS FOR 125 CHILDREN IN NEED

Rotary Club of Florham Park

The fast pace at which Florham Park and surrounding community residents donated gifts under the Angel Tree continued this season. Sponsored by the Florham Park Rotary, this year the parish at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church (Ridgedale Avenue, Florham Park) joined in and was led by Pastor Beau Nelson and coordinated by parishioner Eunice Dickenson. Parishioners teamed together to select ornaments to grant wishes for disadvantaged children - children who were orphaned, in resource (aka foster) families or families struggling.

On Sunday, December 8, after service, parishioners gathered all the gifts they purchased for the children. Together they wrapped them up for delivery to the Division of Child Protection and Permanency, whose local office is in Morris Plains. Said Pastor Nelson, "We are very happy to have this partnership with the Florham Park Rotary making these donations to an important cause."

Then on Monday, December 9, two members of the Child Protection and Permanency, Jaime O'Leary and Darlene Perez, visited the Church to personally say "thank you!" and to transfer the wrapped gifts by the many parishioners to their van. They were met by parishioners Eunice Dickenson, Andrea Sullivan, and Rotarian Peter Nicolas.

Damion Bernard, Rotary club president, explained that this season, the donations added by Amazing Grace Lutheran Church helped contribute to this project wherein more than 125 children benefit. He thanked the community for another very successful holiday season. He also thanked the Florham Park Post Office for hosting the Angel Tree location again. "This really is a fine example of a community coming together" Bernard extolled.

For additional information about the Florham Park Rotary visit FlorhamParkRotary.org, or contact Rotary Membership Chair George Gregor at: ggregor@florhamparkrotary.org, 917-848-0982.



(above) New Florham Park Postmaster John Lasardo III and Florham Park Rotarian George Gregor



(above) Pastors Dean Brown and Beau Nelson with parishioner Eunice Dickenson



(above) Amazing Grace Lutheran Church parishioners donating gifts Lisa Derner, Glen Derner, Gretel O'Brien, Ed Glandak



(above) Division of Child Protection and Permanency Jaime O'Leary and Darlene Perez on either side, with parishioners Andrea Sullivan and Eunice Dickenson with van loaded with gifts.

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HICKORY TREE CHORUS WINTER SING-ALONG

Stay warm this winter by putting some music in your life in 2025! Join the Hickory Tree Chorus for a Winter Sing-Along, which will include a meet-and-greet, warm-ups and, of course, some wonderful singing. Dates are January 8 and 15, 2025, from 6:45 to 9:30 p.m. at The Shrine of St Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ. The chorus sings a variety of music, including old-fashioned love songs, Broadway, Disney, Beatles, and more, in a fun, supportive community. Come sing with us and share the joy of music together! Stay for friendship and fun!

And the event is free!

Hickory Tree is an award-winning women's chorus singing four-part a cappella harmony in the barbershop style. We are passionate about music, performance, fun and friendship. We believe every voice counts and encourage women singers of all ages, colors, ethnicities, and orientations to visit us and share our joy of music.

Please contact the Chorus for the Winter Sing-Along by email at info@hickorytreechorus.org. Find more information at hickorytreechorus.org.



(above) The Hickory Tree award-winning women's chorus is hosting free events on January 8 and 15, 2025, from 6:45 to 9:30 p.m. at The Shrine of St Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ.

Courtesy photo



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ROTARIANS PICK APPLES FOR INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY

Florham Park Rotary Club

A new annual tradition began this year when the Florham Park Rotary Club went apple picking at the Ripple Hill Farm in Basking Ridge. Rotarian Rex Lyon and farmer/owner Joe Sorge, long time friends, made plans for the club to go apple picking after the season ended for the public. Rotarians enjoyed picking apples on a beautiful fall day. The apples were boxed and then donated to the Interfaith Food Pantry which responded with a thank you letter:

DEAR FRIENDS FROM FLORHAM PARK ROTARY,

Thank you for your recent donation of 458 pounds of apples. With your support, thousands of children are receiving the nutrition necessary to stay focused in school and their parents are being relieved of the stress associated with low food security. Additionally, seniors across Morris County no longer have to make the difficult choice between food and paying other bills.

Courtesy photo



(above, l-r) Simone Campbell and George Gregor Apple Picking



(above, l-r) Rex Lyon, Betty O'Brien, Peter Nicolas, and Simone Campbell

It may seem shocking to hear but we are once again seeing record numbers of families and accommodating nearly twice the number of households we served at this time in 2021. We have already distributed 1.5 million pounds of food and accommodated nearly 30,000 household visits to one of our pantries or mobile network partners.

The rising costs of rent, insurance and food are making it increasingly difficult for low-and-middle-income earners to put nutritious food on the table, our own food costs are rising, and we know that it is affecting you, our valued donors. That's why, now more than ever, we appreciate your generous support.

Thanks for caring!

Carolyn Lake

Executive Director
Interfaith Food Pantry Network
Interfaithfoodpantry@mcifp.org

ABOUT FLORHAM PARK ROTARY

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

More ways to learn more about the Florham Park Rotary are to visit FlorhamParkRotary.org, contact Membership Chair George Gregor at gggregor@florhamparkrotary.org, 917-848-0982.

Rotary International is a nonpolitical and nonsectarian organization open to all people regardless of race, color, creed, religion, gender, or political preference. There are 46,000 clubs in 200 countries worldwide 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.

A health setback is never anticipated, be it your own, that of a loved one, or your patient. You can however be proactive in the selection of a center for rehabilitation and restoration. The Florham Park team is committed to providing quality care, comfort, and excellent amenities after surgery or hospitalization.

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SENIOR CITIZEN HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



(above) Marie Anzalone, 107 years young.

The Florham Park Senior Citizens Club Holiday Luncheon was held at the Hanover Manor, on Thursday, December 5, 2024. Attendees were treated to a cocktail hour with a wide variety of delicious appetizers, followed by a choice of entrees, and desert. The Holiday Luncheon provides an opportunity to socialize with friends and celebrate the holiday season with wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

The Florham Park Senior Citizens Club is celebrating its 63rd year anniversary in 2025. It is a not-for-profit membership organization whose purpose is to bring seniors together for

social, recreational, and educational activities. Membership is open to any Florham Park resident age 62 or older and to the younger spouse of a member. The yearly annual dues for membership is \$15 per person.

Please stop in the Senior Center for a tour Tuesday through Friday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and also pick up a membership application at the Florham Park Senior Center, located in the Florham Park Borough Hall Complex, 111 Ridgedale Avenue, Florham Park. The Senior Center is the Yellow building across from the basketball courts.

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Florham Park Press page on facebook.com. Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."



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“These are incredibly deserving staff members who have been recognized by the school community for outstanding work and dedication towards the students and district. Congratulations and thank you for your passion, efforts and professionalism!” - Dr. Steven Caponegro, Superintendent



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Courtesy photos

STUDENTS EXCEL AT TABLE TENNIS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS



Courtesy photo

The Joola 26th Annual North American Team Championships took place at the Gaylord National Resort in Washington, DC over Thanksgiving weekend. A total of 912 table tennis players from 226 teams around the world participated, including players from the U.S.A., Canada, Puerto Rico, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, Jamaica, Austria, Japan and China. They competed for championships across 17 divisions, each based on the team players'

average USA Table Tennis ratings.

Matchpoint TTC 7, led by Team Captain Enya Li, along with Yug Sinha and Rassi Zhou (Brooklake school 5th grade), secured 1st place out of 16 teams in Division 12 under the guidance of Florham Park resident and coach, Xuanming Hu. Rassi Zhou has been training at Matchpoint Table Tennis Center in Whippany, NJ, founded by Bochoa Li, who is also a Florham Park resident.

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JANUARY 2025, SENIORS PROGRAMS

Florham Park Senior Citizens Club

Happy New Year to all Senior Citizens!

Our Senior Citizens monthly club meetings are held at the Florham Park Community Center located in the borough hall complex, address 111 Ridgedale Avenue, located 200 yards behind town hall. Note the Florham Park Community Center is also called the Recreation Center (large brown building). Social Time is at 10:45 a.m. With light refreshment served.

“HOW TO TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR”

Wednesday, January 8th, at 11:00 a.m.

Our first program of the New Year has a great start with providing insight for improving communications with your doctor. Brought to us by Oasis Senior Advisors. Our presentation starts with the questions: 1) “Do you feel rushed and stressed when you finally get to see your doctor?” 2) “Do you forget to ask a

question and get home and say I should have asked about you fill in the blank?”

To talk to your doctor, learn how to prepare, be open and honest, clearly describe your symptoms, write down questions, and do take notes, are some key points of the presentation.

“HEART AND SOUL VOCALS”

Wednesday, January 22th, at 11:00a.m.

We welcome for the first time Amy Tominacis a gifted entertainer, with versatile style, a professionally trained singer, songwriter, lyricist and actress. Music styles include: Rock, Blues, Jazz and Soul. Amy will provide a wide variety of songs for all seniors to enjoy and always engages with attendees for a wonderful time and sing-a-long. Amy Tominacis & John Bruggeman perform locally in Northern New Jersey known as The Acoustic Duo.



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BROOKLAKE SCHOOL THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

This year, the students of Brooklake School in Florham Park raised over 3,000 items to donate to the Interfaith Food Pantry of Morris County. This event was organized by the Florham Park PTA as a way to support the local community. They were able to fill 6 SUVs with the donations.

Robert Foster, Principal - "This annual food drive has truly become a great experience for our students. We created a competition among homerooms to see which class could bring in the most items. I am so proud of all of our students for being engaged and excited about an event that benefits our community and helps families in need."

Calvin G, 5th grader - "This food drive will have a positive impact on so many people because it helps them to have a Happy Thanksgiving and holiday season."

Milena M, 5th Grader - "So many people do not have food or other things they need every day. The food drive is a great way for us to help those people who are in need."

In addition to the work from the school, PTA parent Mrs Philips worked closely with the school and Interfaith Food Pantry to organize the event and ensure transportation for donations. Additionally, PTA parents Mrs Rate, Mrs Nigra,

Mrs Comprelli, & Mrs Cicalese helped in loading, unloading, and delivering donations.



(above, l-r) 5th Graders Brandon B, Matteo M, Connor G, Jules S, Catalina R.

Photos by Florham Park Public Schools



(above, l-r) Brooklake Students Matteo M, Nicholas Y, Jules S, Brandon B, Alex W, Sophia P, Emma F, Shannon L, Ali F, and Principal Robert Foster

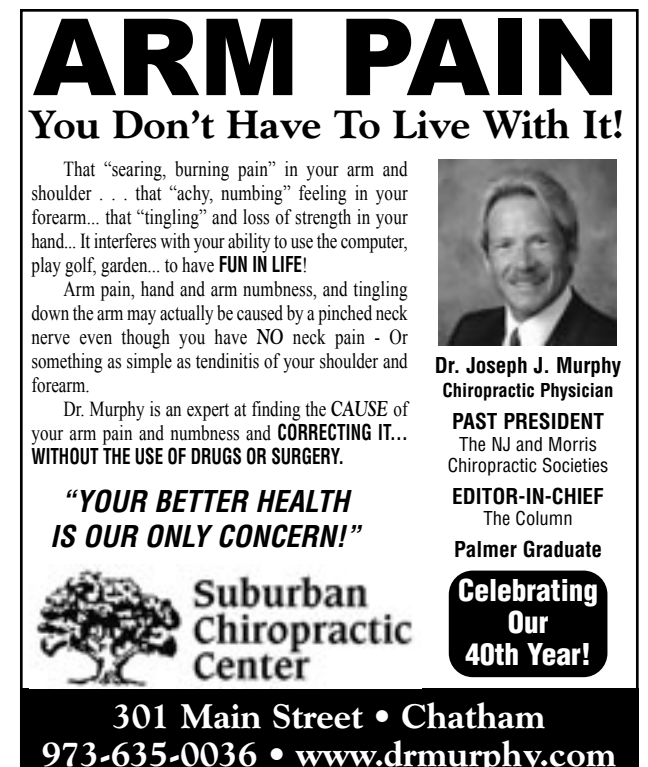


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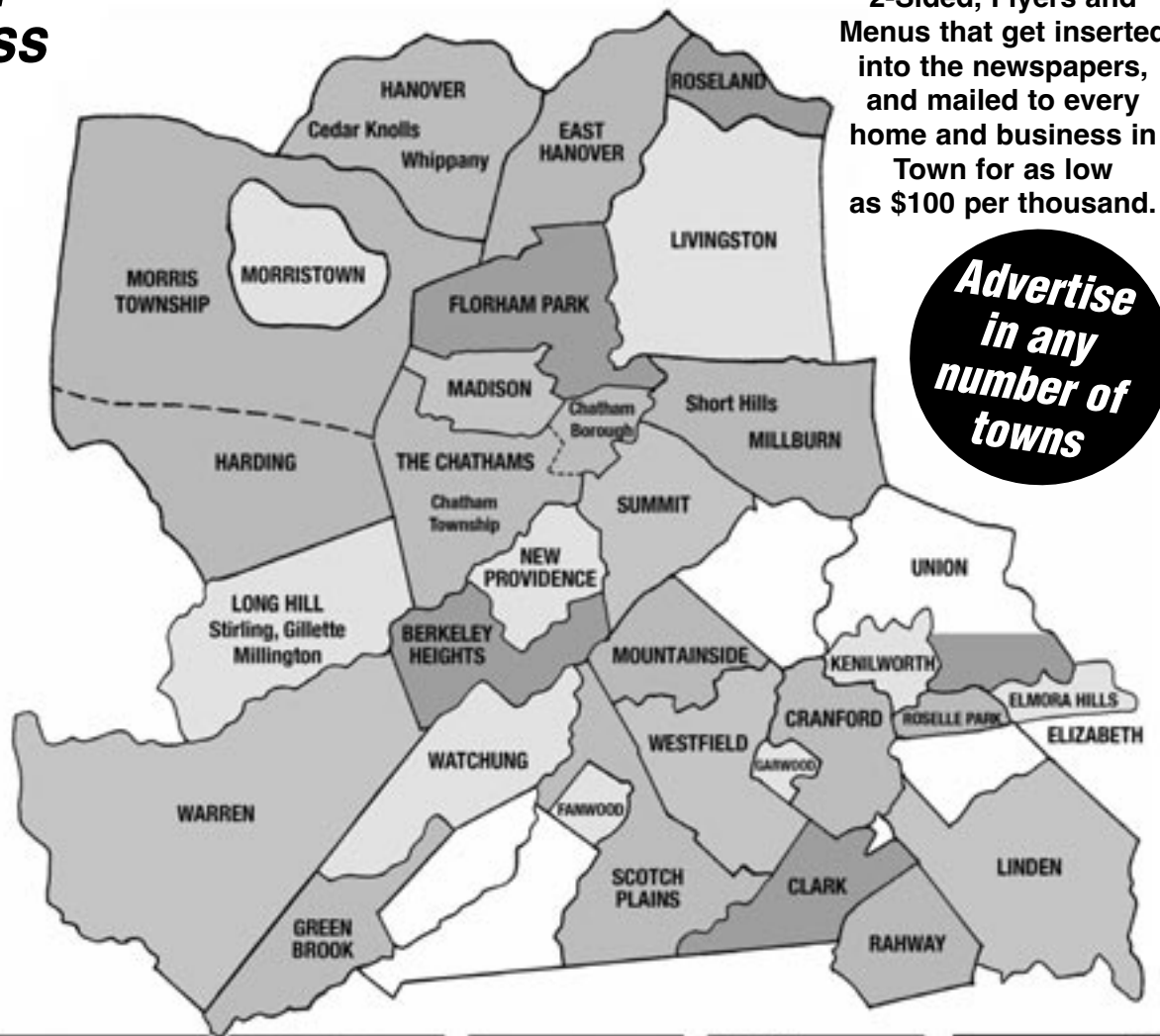
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4 Units	3.25"x8" or 6.5"x4"	240	560	900	1000	1300	1600	1700	1800	1900	2000	2100
6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF PAGE	6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
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AN UNUSUAL GOOSE REHABBED AND RELEASED

The Raptor Trust

The Brant goose, with its compact size and striking black-and-white plumage, is a remarkable bird. Adapted to drink saltwater, these geese embark on long migratory journeys from their Arctic breeding grounds to coastal winter



(above) We're thrilled to see this Brant goose take to the skies (or water) once more! It was a charming patient.

Photo by The Raptor Trust

habitats. Look for them in estuaries, mudflats, and saltmarshes, where they thrive throughout the winter months.

Recently, The Raptor Trust treated a Brant goose (Admit #21-4190) found in Long Valley with wounds from a predator attack. After intensive care, including suturing lacerations, treating an eye injury and parasites, this resilient bird was successfully released at Sandy Hook on November 2nd.

ABOUT THE RAPTOR TRUST

The Raptor Trust is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located at 1390 White Bridge Rd., Millington, NJ. They provide free care and assistance to injured, sick, or orphaned wild birds. They offer educational programs to the public about wild birds, especially birds of prey. They strive to provide a human example for others. For more information about upcoming events, to make a donation, and volunteer opportunities visit info@theraptortrust.org. To report an injured wild bird call 908-647-2353.

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF NIGHT SKY GAZING

Amateur Astronomers, Inc (AAI) of Cranford, NJ celebrated their 75th Anniversary on Sunday, November 17, 2024, at The Westwood Caterers of Garwood, NJ. In attendance were 53 past and current members who range from teenagers to seniors.

AAI has always interested anyone who loves looking and learning about the night sky. Housed in the William Miller Sperry Observatory on the Union College campus in Cranford, the observatory is open to the public every Friday night with their twin domes looking at the heavens. One of the domes houses a 24-inch reflector and the other dome houses a refractor, which was constructed by club members. Public lectures start at 8:30 p.m. on Fridays, they are on current topics in Astronomy.

Youth lectures are presented by the club at 7:00 p.m. to preregistered scout groups to help them earn their patches in science. If you are interested in preregistering a scout group, please contact info@asterism.org.

The club also celebrates celestial events such as eclipses by opening the Observatory and having numerous telescopes outside the building. For more information about AAI email, membership@asterism.org or visit asterism.org.

ASTRONOMY DAY - MAY 17, 2025

Amateur Astronomers, Inc. along with the North Jersey Astronomical Group, two amateur astronomy clubs located in New Jersey, are once again holding their annual Astronomy Day on Saturday, May 17, 2025. The event will be held in 2 locations: Trilside Nature & Science Center in Mountainside in the afternoon and at William Miller Sperry Observatory on the campus of Union College in Cranford in the evening. The theme is "Solar Max, Unlocking the Secrets of the Sun." This is a family friendly event that focuses on learning about our Sun and its impact on us, and also about astronomy and related sciences in a fun and easy to understand atmosphere. This event appeals to both children and adults. The event is free and open to the public and does not require preregistration. So, mark your calendars for Saturday, May 17, 2025, and come out to learn more about the Sun and our universe!



(above) AAI has always interested anyone who loves learning about the night sky. Housed in the William Miller Sperry Observatory on the Union College campus in Cranford, the observatory is open to the public every Friday nights. One of the domes houses a 24-inch reflector and the other dome houses a refractor. Public lectures start at 8:30 p.m. on Fridays, on current topics in Astronomy.

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