

Happy Thanksgiving...

Over the next two months we will be celebrating the holiday season. It doesn't matter whether you are a democrat, republican or independent, this is a time for all of us to set differences aside and give thanks and also give back to others. Families throughout our community will be celebrating traditions beginning with Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. The holidays are a wonderful time of year to come together as a community and help those less fortunate. Take a minute to think of your friends and neighbors that may be alone for the holidays, or struggling to make ends meet. The holidays could be a very difficult time for many people, and a very good opportunity for all of us to take time out from the hustle and bustle to do an act of kindness such as visiting patients in the hospital, donating to a charity or simply donating leftovers to a shelter. We are very fortunate for what we have, what better time to help others who are less fortunate? And what better time to make amends with a friend or family member or even a neighbor than during the holiday season?

As you may know, we have expanded our food pantry to help the growing number of families that have fallen on hard times due to the economy. If you, or someone you know needs food or assistance, please contact our Social Services department at 201-330-2014. Be assured that names of residents using this service are kept strictly confidential.

In our steadfast commitment to community service, we are proud to let you know the first annual Community Ball raised \$40,000 for Tomorrow's Children, a non-profit organization that helps children with cancer and blood disorders. This organization helped three year old Ava Krajewski, one of our youngest residents. Ava was diagnosed with acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) last August. Her family has been living in Secaucus for many generations and is well known throughout the community.

On Saturday, December 3, the community is again invited to join together for the 16th annual Tree Lighting ceremony and second annual holiday parade. This plaza center will come alive with the holiday spirit. This year the festivities will also include the first Holiday Bazaar from noon to 5:00 in the Plaza Center. There will be music, raffles, and fun for the whole family. The parade will begin on Paterson Plank Road in the North End to the plaza, and include the arrival of Santa. Come out and join your neighbors for this fun filled family day. Don't forget to stop by Exchange this Sunday, November 27 for the Holiday Lights ceremony beginning at 5:00 pm.

We take this time now to wish you and your family a very happy, bountiful and joyous Thanksgiving.