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NOVEMBER 23 & 24, 2023



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**Friday, Dec. 15th & Saturday, Dec. 23rd • 6pm-9:30pm**

A rare, self-guided tour through Allaire as candles, lights and luminaries glow through the Village. Enjoy an evening of peace and holiday atmosphere. General Store, Bakery and various buildings will be open.  
Admission: \$10 per person 3 years + up, 2 & under Free

### "Lantern Tours"

**Saturday, December 9th & 16th • 4:30pm-8:30pm**

The traditional guided tours by candlelit lantern through the Village featuring historical Christmas customs from the 19th century.  
must pre-purchase tickets\*

### "Christmas at Allaire"

**Sunday, December 10th & 17th • Noon-4pm**

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Admission: Pre-registration: \$8 per person ages 3 and up  
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**PRE-PURCHASE TICKETS NOW! – These events sell out!**

\*Go to [allairevillage.org](http://allairevillage.org) for tickets under the Events Tab or visit [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com)

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# 42nd annual Bay Head Christmas Walk to bring holiday cheer to all

BY TOMMY WATTERS  
STAR NEWS GROUP

**BAY HEAD** — The 42nd annual Bay Head Christmas Walk returns again this year, with the holiday season event looking to be bigger and better than ever.

Starting on Friday, Dec. 1 and continuing into Saturday, Dec. 2, this two-day event has countless opportunities and experiences for all residents of Bay Head to enjoy. The festivities will begin at 5 p.m., with the official tree lighting beginning at 6 p.m.

This year, a larger tree, donated and decorated by the Hesse family, will be placed on the lawn of Manasquan Bank on Bridge Avenue. Cookies and hot chocolate, donated by Bay Head



FILE PHOTO STAR NEWS GROUP

Santa Claus always makes an appearance every year, greeting all the good boys and girls of Bay Head with candy canes and Christmas cheer.

Yacht Club, will also be available at the Bay Head Firehouse for any hungry, thirsty or cold kids or residents.

Santa Claus is also expected to make an arrival at 6:30 p.m., making his grand entrance on one of the Bay Head fire trucks.

Sandi Beyer, chairman of the Christmas Walk for the Bay Head Business Association, told The Ocean Star almost every business and organization in Bay Head during those days will be hosting some sort of holiday-themed activity or celebration.

One new aspect to the Christmas Walk this year, which Ms. Beyer is very excited about, is the

SEE **WALK** PAGE 14



Photos Courtesy of Popovitch Builders



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## Annual Bay Head Walk starts December, 1

### WALK

FROM PAGE 12

Candy Cane Express, a trackless train that functions as a trolley, to bring kids and adults throughout Bay Head so they are able to see and attend all the events happening in the town.

The trolley will be running from 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday, and will be picking up residents in the parking lot by Manasquan Bank.

Other events, activities and points of interest on Friday include:

Bell choir by the Jubilee Bells at Andi's [526 Lake Ave. Suite N] at 5:30 p.m.

Holiday brass band at Diane Turton [88 Bridge Ave.] from 6 to 8 p.m.

Christmas Carol Sing-Along with Cindy and Stephanie presented by Port Coffee Roasters [519 Main Ave.] from 6 to 8 p.m.

Meet Wilbur the Wagon from children's book "Wilbur the Wagon Saves Christmas" and author James Contreras as they fill Wilbur's truck with non-perishable food donations to give to St. Gregory's Pantry. Wilbur will be located at Beach House Classic Boardshop [517 Main Ave.] from 5 to 8 p.m.

Curtis Court open house and holiday gift basket raffle, featuring the businesses from 517 to 523 Main Ave. [Beach House Classic Boardshop, Port Coffee Roasters, Bay Head Travel and Carrie Dunham] from 5 to 8 p.m.

"Me and Bobby D. Band" performing at the



FILE PHOTO STAR NEWS GROUP

The annual Christmas Walk always kicks-off with the tree lighting ceremony. This year, the tree will be placed on the lawn outside of Manasquan Bank.

Come Ring in the Holidays at La Luz Salon [82 Bridge Ave.] from 5 to 8 p.m.

Various assorted baked treats and hot chocolate provided by Mueller's Bakery at 80 Bridge Ave.

Art show of local artists at Prim Designs [520 Main Ave.] with refreshments provided.

Homemade chili and raffle drawings, one raffle being for a hand painted Veuve bottle [tickets are \$100] along with a free reading with Allison from Integrative Healing & Wellness [both events

will be at Coastal Cottage and Integrated Healing & Wellness, 64 Bridge Ave.] from 5 to 8 p.m.

Ugly Sweater Contest at the Jolly Tar on Friday from 5 to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Adult winners will receive a \$50 gift certificate, while child winners will receive a \$25 gift certificate.

Holiday refreshments, gingerbread cookie decorating and live Christmas

SEE **WALK** PAGE 15





### WALK FROM PAGE 14

music at The Bentley Inn [694 Main Ave.] from 6 to 8 p.m.

ReFind Vintage Santa Blow Mold Figure Giveaway - must stop in to enter for a chance to win at ReFind [43 Mount St.].

All Saints Church [500 Lake Ave.] - activities, crafts, snacks and carols from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Events on Saturday include:

Bagels with the Big Guy - sponsored by the Bay Head Home and School Association, the firehouse will have Santa himself and is inviting the community to share activities, treats, music and crafts. Tickets are \$15, while kids two and

under are free. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Trolley Rides around Bay Head running from 12 to 3 p.m., this trolley will make stops at the Bay Head Historical Museum, Bridge Avenue [center of town], Lake and Mount Street shops and Main Avenue shops.

Victorian Christmas at the Bay Head Historical Museum from 12 to 4 p.m.

Events will be continuously added until the walk begins. Residents can scan the QR code for the Christmas Walk flyer, available online at [instagram.com/ilovebayhead](https://www.instagram.com/ilovebayhead).

A scavenger hunt will also begin on Dec. 1, with Christmas gnomes scattered businesses in Bay Head. Once a resident has found all the

gnomes, they can bring their card to Manasquan Bank, where they will be entered to win Bay Head Bucks, a form of fake currency that can be used at any participating business in Bay Head.

The hunt runs from Dec. 1 until Dec. 13.

Ms. Beyer's team for the Christmas walk consists of Grace Mazzatta, Charlie Hesse, Tess Hazen and BHBA president, Allison Feehan.

Borough Administrator Frank Pannucci had previously told The Ocean Star that the construction happening on Bridge Avenue will not affect the event, "New Jersey American Water will have all equipment, well points and openings removed or secured for that event."

## Belmar holiday decorating contest has begun

STAR NEWS GROUP

Registration for the annual Belmar community holiday decorating contest will be open until Monday, Dec. 4.

Judging will begin on Wednesday, Dec. 13 and winners will be announced on the Borough

of Belmar's website and social media pages the following week on Dec. 20.

To register for the competition, visit the borough's Facebook page [[facebook.com/Belmar07719](https://www.facebook.com/Belmar07719)] for the online link or stop by bor-

ough hall [open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.] for a physical application for entry.

The top three contestants who earn the highest score will be awarded with gift certificates to support local businesses in the community.

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# Brielle Holiday in the Park planned for Dec. 2

BY ALEX LAMATTINA  
STAR NEWS GROUP

**BRIELLE** — The Borough of Brielle will host its second annual Holiday in the Park event on Dec. 2, the same day as its annual Christmas tree lighting.

The event will take place from 2 to 6 p.m. in Brielle Park and will include gift shopping opportunities from businesses in the borough.

"We've made it a little bigger this year, not size, but in what we're providing," said Leslie Naughton, President of the Brielle Chamber of Commerce.

"In terms of activities for people and kids, there's much more to do this year."

## ACTIVITIES AND SHOPPING

The event in Brielle Park will feature local vendors, pony rides for young residents, family pajama and ugly sweater portraits, caroling, childrens' crafts, a live nativity, visits from holiday characters, and a variety of holiday-themed activities.

Vendors include Aqua Vita IV, B.A.K.E.S. by Carol, Brielle Bounty, Brielle Cyclery, Coastal Crafts, Electrix Vintage, IFC United, Kneaded

by Lady J, Laura Myers Art, Lym Designs, Saltwater Coastal Designs, Sea and Scales, Syby Designs, The Light Within Us, The Preppy Frog and Woman's Club of Brielle.

Ms. Naughton said the Brielle Library will have a different story time for younger kids every half an hour from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Church in Brielle has a dance program whose members will be performing at 2:15 p.m., followed by Grace Kelly Studio dancers at 3:15 p.m.

From 3 to 4 p.m., the animals from the live nativity scene—which will be performed by The Church in Brielle at 4:30 p.m.—will be available in a petting zoo for children to interact with.

Ms. Naughton noted that at 5 p.m., the borough plans on dedicating an hour to family karaoke, lighting the borough's Christmas tree and taking pictures with "a jolly special guest."

Last year's Holiday in the Park event was on a Sunday due to a rain date. The chamber president noted that the organization hopes that after the tree lighting, residents will go out and celebrate on a Saturday night.

Syby Designs will be providing concrete fire

pits for the celebration, while Lomurro Law—a Freehold-based law firm—will provide kits for families to make smores during the day.

The tree will be once again decorated by Callie's Pest Control, and the Brielle Recreation Committee will decorate other trees and locations throughout the park.

"We dreamed about this event for a really long time, but dreaming about something and implementing it is a big difference," said Ms. Naughton.

"It takes a village to do something like this. The chamber has worked really hard with other organizations to get this done, so it was a group effort."

Ms. Naughton said that, despite the expansion in activities, the chamber is seeking approximately or three more vendors for the event. The entrance fee for vendors is \$75 and counts towards a Brielle Chamber of Commerce membership.

## HOLIDAY CHEER

The event is held to promote local businesses and to put visitors in the holiday mood, said Ms. Naughton. "This will put you in the holiday spirit. When the carolers walk by singing, you almost feel like you're in a Hallmark movie."

For more information on Holiday in the Park, visit the Brielle Chamber of Commerce website [briellechamber.com], visit its Facebook page ["Brielle Chamber of Commerce"] or contact by phone at 732-528-0377.





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# Tree lighting ceremony and candy cane hunt return for holiday season

STAR NEWS GROUP

Manasquan's annual tree lighting ceremony will take place on Dec. 1 at 6 p.m. at Squan Plaza, followed by a candy cane hunt for children. Both are hosted by the Manasquan Chamber of Commerce.

The rain date is scheduled for Dec. 8.

"It's gotten to be big over the years," said Ray Summers, manager at Manasquan Lighting and the chairperson for both the tree lighting and the candy cane hunt. "We have the whole town that helps out: the Chamber, the Manasquan Elks, the PBA [Police Benevolent Association Local No. 284], the MBIA [Manasquan Beach Improvement Association]. It's a town event."

He added, "The fire department helps out. It's a whole community night."

The tree will be lit by outgoing Mayor Edward Donovan for the final time.

"I'm very happy to be retiring," said Mayor Donovan, who added, "I'll... miss some of the good things."

After the tree lighting, the candy cane hunt will begin, open to children ages two to eight who are accompanied by an adult. There will be 1500 candy canes given out on a first-come-first-serve basis, said Mr. Summers. The canes will be given out in four separate lines, to allow the lines to move smoothly.

Each candy cane is numbered. Upon receiving their cane, children should move toward Main Street, where the hunt will take place.

Participating businesses on Main, South and Broad Streets will have numbered paper candy canes in their store windows, explained Mr. Summers. When the children find the storefront paper candy cane that matches the number on their own candy cane, they can enter the store

to receive their prize from the store workers.

Accompanying the candy cane hunt will be refreshments, courtesy of the Hook and Ladder Auxiliary, the Manasquan Woman's Club, the Manasquan PBA and Sunnyside Manor of Wall Township. There will also be music and entertainment, including a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, said Mr. Summers.

The hunt is "one of the things Manasquan is known for," Mr. Summers said. "The kids that got a candy cane are now bringing their kids. It's a special night to start off the Christmas season."

Main Street will be closed to all traffic until 8 pm for safety purposes.

Simultaneously to the event, Mr. Summers said that the Chamber of Commerce is asking for "donations of non-perishable food items or a monetary donation" to benefit the Manasquan Food Pantry.



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# Chris Pinnella's Christmas in Manasquan returns

BY TOMMY WATTERS  
STAR NEWS GROUP

MANASQUAN — Chris Pinnella returns to Manasquan High School [MHS] this December for his annual Christmas in Manasquan holiday concert.

On Saturday, Dec. 2 starting at 3 p.m., Mr. Pinnella, a vocalist and a MHS alumnus, along with his eight-piece band as they ring in the holiday season with plenty of favorite Christmas classics and holiday hits.

The evening will also feature students from MHS drama, chorus and band programs collaborating with Mr. Pinnella on several songs throughout the evening.

Expect to hear songs such as, "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town," "Sil-



COURTESY OF CHRIS PINNELLA

Since 2016, Chris Pinnella has returned to Manasquan High School to perform Christmas and holiday songs with his eight-piece band. This year, as with many others, students from the high school will be performing with him as well.

ver Bells," "Merry Christmas Baby," "Christmas-time Is Here" and "Noel" to classic tunes such as "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas," "The Christmas Song" and "White Christmas," to Mr. Pinnella's take on Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah," plus so much more.

With touring experience spanning the globe, Mr. Pinnella has toured and recorded with the platinum selling, arena rock/crossover group Trans-Siberian Orchestra, American Young Voices, and leading his own band/orchestra with tour dates throughout North America.

SEE PINNELLA PAGE 24

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# Point Beach tree lighting to kick off winter holiday season

BY ALEX DYER  
STAR NEWS GROUP

POINT PLEASANT BEACH — Point Pleasant Beach residents can prepare for a burst of Christmas cheer on Black Friday, Nov. 24, as the annual lighting of the Christmas tree will herald Santa's—and the season's—arrival in the borough.

The holiday magic begins at 5:30 p.m., when a large tree will be ceremoniously lit for the kids and adults of the town.

Shortly thereafter, Santa Claus will be visiting, straight from his workshop in the North Pole. After being introduced to onlookers riding high atop a fire truck, Santa will be available to families for pictures at Ocean County Music, 619 Arnold Ave. Families can bring their own cameras and take their own pictures with the jolly elf following the lighting of the Christmas tree.

The tree lighting celebration is set to be filled with family-friendly attractions, including horse and carriage rides throughout the downtown area, fire truck

rides and children's activities. DJ Paul of Backstage Entertainment will also be in attendance, providing music for the festive occasion.

In the case of inclement weather, the lighting will be held the following day, Saturday, Nov. 25, at the same location.

The event runs until 8 p.m.

### OTHER CHAMBER EVENTS

The Point Pleasant Beach Chamber of Commerce will be hosting several holiday-themed events beyond the initial tree lighting, including:

Dec. 2 - Brunch with Santa, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Pop's Corner, 500 Arnold Ave. Contact 732-892-1700

Dec. 10 - Brunch with Santa, 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at Lobster Shanty, 83 Channel Dr. Call 732-899-6700 for tickets.

Dec. 16 - Brunch with Santa, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Round Dough with a Hole, 400 Richmond Ave. Contact 732-899-0750.

Dec. 23 - Brunch with Santa, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at BoatYard 401, 401 Broadway. Contact 732-892-9000.

Additionally, free horse and carriage rides will be running for shoppers and visitors on three Sundays in December—Dec. 3, 10 and 17—from noon to 3 p.m. The rides will take place on Arnold and Bay Avenues.

## Avon Shop Local Day set for Nov. 25

STAR NEWS GROUP

Avon-By-The-Sea is holding the Small Business Saturday Shop Local Day all day on Nov. 25.

Thirteen small Avon businesses are open for a day of shopping and promos and discounts, including complimentary items with a purchase and product specials.

Santa Claus is coming to town from 2 to 5 p.m. at RE/MAX Achievers By The Sea, located at 700 Main Street, for a visit and opportunity to take photos with your phone, candy canes and refreshments.

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## Spring Lake Heights hosts fifth annual holiday house decorating contest

STAR NEWS GROUP

The Spring Lake Heights Holiday House Decorating Contest will be returning for the fifth year on Dec. 9.

The top three festive houses will be rewarded with a gift card donated

by various local businesses. The houses will begin to be judged at dusk on Saturday, Dec. 9.

The event is sponsored by the recreation department of Spring Lake Heights.

Participants can catch the judges' eye by in-

cluding colorful lights and holiday inflatables to their front properties. Residents are encouraged to observe the holiday decorations beginning at dusk on Dec. 9.

Participants can register until Dec. 8 at: [gle/Xe3fQJhrk9hZKzSE7](https://www.gle/Xe3fQJhrk9hZKzSE7).



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# Chris Pinnella to perform at Manasquan High School

**PINNELLA**  
FROM PAGE 20

All proceeds will go towards the Jack Nicholson Theatre Upgrade Project and the drama department for them to buy rights to musicals, costume design, set construction and other expenses that relate to the plays and musicals the high school performs. Since 2016, these shows

have raised over \$100,000 towards the drama department.

"The goal of this rally is to make a family-friendly holiday show people could come to and have a nice afternoon or night out with their family and listen to Christmas music," said Mr. Pinnella.

He further said this year the performance was moved to a matinee in order to make the show more accessible to families to attend, after much feedback from last year's performance.

Mr. Pinnella also said he is excited to perform on the newly renovated theater stage with the upgraded sound system and lights.

Tickets can be purchased online at [showtix4u.com/event-details/76197](http://showtix4u.com/event-details/76197).

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# Lavallette plans Hometown Christmas Weekend

BY ALEX DYER  
STAR NEWS GROUP

**LAVALLETT** — The borough of Lavallette will be holding its annual Christmas tree lighting on Friday, Dec. 1, to kick off

the season in true shore-town fashion.

At 6 p.m. on Dec. 1, with hot chocolate on standby, the borough's residents and officials will gather at borough

hall, 1306 Grand Central Ave., for a cozy tree lighting ceremony, followed by the arrival of Santa Claus later in the evening.

"We do this the first Friday in December," said Lavallette Council President Anita Zalom, "and DPW [the Department of Public Works] put lights on the tree and lights all over town, but none of [the lights go] on."

Instead, she said, the lights on the tree at borough hall are powered by the magic of song; the attendees are encouraged to raise their voices and sing Christmas carols in order to light up the tree.

"The tree is not lit until we have our tree lighting ceremony—we sing songs, carols [like]

'Deck the Halls,' 'Joy to the World,'" she said.

"And then when we sing 'O, Christmas Tree, O, Christmas Tree,' if they sing it nice enough, the lights will go on. They all come, they stand around the tree, I have my keyboard there and they have kids from the school to sing also."

Ms. Zalom told The Ocean Star that the night is capped by the arrival of the North Pole's own Santa Claus atop a fire engine.

"Santa Claus comes on the fire truck," said Ms. Zalom. "If he hears us, and he sees the lights, he comes to town; then, everybody follows Santa Claus...He'll ride around, he'll stop and take pic-

tures with the families—it's a great night."

She also said that the borough and the Lavallette Business Association are sharing seashells, decorated by the kids of Lavallette Elementary, to trim their respective trees.

## HOMETOWN HOLIDAY WEEKEND

The LBA will also be holding its Hometown Holiday Weekend that same weekend, sprucing up Lavallette's commercial district with Christmas cheer.

Saturday, Dec. 2, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., businesses along the Route 35 corridor will variously set up family activities and decorate to ring in the holiday season.

"We also have our Christmas tree," said Beth D'Aloisio, treasurer of the LBA, about the group's own tree separate from the one at borough hall.

"We plant it up by the dunes and the kids from the school make shells for us." As of press time, the tree is planned to be located at Philadelphia Avenue Beach.

Horse and carriage rides will be offered as well, beginning near borough hall and taking passengers on a stroll around the borough.

Additionally, between 12 and 3 p.m., Santa Claus will be available for pictures with families.

## Heights to host tree lighting

STAR NEWS GROUP

Spring Lake Heights will host its annual tree lighting ceremony on Dec. 1 from 6 to 7 p.m. at the borough's municipal hall located at 555 Brighton Ave.

The event will include light refreshments, children's activities and a special guest appearance from Santa.

The event is being hosted by the borough council, the mayor and the Independent Fire Company No. 1.



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# Belmar will host Christmas tree and Menorah lightings

BY GIANNA MEHES  
STAR NEWS GROUP

The borough's annual tree lighting ceremony is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 1 at 5:30 p.m. in Pyanoe Plaza.

Along with a performance by the Belmar Elementary School student choir and a special guest visit from Santa Claus,

this year's event will also introduce a new Candy Cane Hunt for kids.

The new activity will see participants hunt for their designated candy cane numbers in one of the 15 participating businesses down Main Street, which will have their corresponding number prominently displayed in their

storefront windows for kids to spot out in order to exchange their candy canes with shop owners for a special holiday prize.

Pre-registration, limited to the first 150 kids, is required for participation in the Candy Cane Hunt and no day-of registration will be permitted. More information can be found

through the borough's recreation department online at parksrec.egov.basgov.com/belmarnj.

"The purpose of this is really to drum up 'shop local, shop small' for the holidays," said John Walsh, the borough's special events coordinator.

"It's hard, we're still a shore community, we

have a lot of people that live here year-round but our tourism is really the beach, so we're just trying to find little things we can do to bring people to Belmar and help support our local businesses."

**MENORAH LIGHTING DEC. 11**

The borough will also host a Menorah Lighting

ceremony the following week on Monday, Dec. 11 at 5:30 p.m. in Pyanoe Plaza.

"Afterwards, Brandl's invites everyone in for some Hanukkah samplings of traditional food and such," Mr. Walsh said.

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## Spring Lake Tree lighting to welcome holiday season

BY ELLIOTT NGUYEN  
STAR NEWS GROUP

**SPRING LAKE** — The annual tree lighting at Spring Lake will take place on Nov. 25 at Third and Morris Avenues, followed by an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Spring Lake Community House.

The lighting ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. The rain date is the next day, Nov. 26, and the ceremony would instead begin at 5 p.m. if rescheduled to that day. Either way, said Kathy Heine, the director of parks and recreation for the borough, attendees have tended to arrive early in past years in order to get their seats.

While this happens, they will be treated to

music as well as entertainment, including the St. Catharine's choir, dancers from the Spring Lake Theatre & Dance Academy a performance of "Scrooge" by the Community House Theatre, said Ms. Heine.

She added that many of the nearby stores will be open, with refreshments available inside.

Belle's Ice Cream, located at 300 Morris Ave., announced in a Facebook post that the store will be open at 4 p.m. the day of the lighting and creating "special treats" for the event.

Once the lighting ceremony ends, which Ms. Heine said takes between 45 minutes to an hour, attendants can walk down Third Avenue to

the Community House, where children can meet Santa and Mrs. Claus to tell them what they want for Christmas.

On the way, they can stop by the Duggan Building at 313 Washington Ave. to see the Christmas train display, presented by Clayton Limousine Service. The display will be open from noon to 8 p.m. that day. The trains will remain on display until Dec. 31, available to see in the Duggan building Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

The borough will also hold a Hanukkah Menorah lighting on Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. It will take place at Fifth and Warren Avenues.

## Santa Claus expected at Riley Park on Nov. 26

STAR NEWS GROUP

Santa Claus is coming to Bradley Beach from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 26, at Riley Park.

Santa will arrive on a fire truck to the annual tree-lighting ceremony. The event will have pictures with Santa, free face painting, games and horse-and-carriage rides. There also will be live music with Pease 3+1, a live dance performance by Studio 7 and light refreshments such as free hot chocolate and cookies.

Bradley Beach Tourism will hold a sock drive to benefit local charities.



COURTESY OF AMY HALL

Mayor Larry Fox lights the tree last year.

Attendees are asked to bring a pair of new socks for the Sox Box located in Riley Park.

For more information, visit: [bradleybeachnj.gov](http://bradleybeachnj.gov) or email [tourism@bradleybeachnj.gov](mailto:tourism@bradleybeachnj.gov)

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# Lake Como to host new Small Business Saturday with tree lighting event

BY GIANNA MEHES  
STAR NEWS GROUP

**LAKE COMO** — The Lake Como Tourism Commission will host its Small Business Saturday event in conjunction with their annual tree lighting ceremony this year on Saturday, Nov. 25 at borough hall.

The shopping event will take place from 3 to 8 p.m., with the tree lighting ceremony commencing at 7 p.m. The tree lighting will also include a special visit from Santa Claus, who will arrive just after the tree lighting ceremony for holiday pictures inside of borough hall.

The night will include 14 local business vendors, as well as a booth for Lake Como merchan-

dise. There also will be multiple musical performances including choirs from both a local church and Belmar Elementary School, as well as an acoustic duo.

“It’s going to be great,” said Councilwoman and tourism commission liaison Hawley Scull. “We have some great local vendors because it’s Small Business Saturday, so it’s something to support them at the holidays.”

The event will also feature free hot chocolate, provided by the commission, and a beer truck from Screamin’ Hill Brewery in Cream Ridge, which is owned by a Lake Como resident.

The beer truck, which is estimated to be the size

of a large van, will offer a small variety of beers for patrons who are of legal drinking age. Fencing will be set up to establish the designated beverage area and no alcoholic drinks will be permitted outside this space.

Councilwoman Scull also said that she has been working with McCann’s Tavern in hopes of creating meal specials from the restaurant for the night.

“There’s not really food that’s going to be served. We don’t have a food vendor that’s coming, so we’re going to do some family dinner specials so that the families that stop by can go over there for dinner and then come back for Santa,” she said.

# Sea Girt Christmas Tree Lighting set for Dec. 1

STAR NEWS GROUP

The annual Christmas Under the Stars Christmas Tree Lighting is kicking off the holiday season in Sea Girt, with a full night of holiday-themed fun hosted by the Sea Girt Recreation Commission on Friday, Dec. 1 beginning at 5 p.m. in the library plaza, with a rain date set for Monday, Dec. 4.

Beginning at 5 p.m. attendees can shop for special gifts from the

Holiday Market, a group of local vendors and craft booths, including town organizations such as the Holly and Garden Clubs; at 6:30 p.m. enjoy a dance performance by East Coast Dance Company, and a musical performance at 6:45 p.m. by the Sea Girt Elementary School band students.

At 7 p.m. Sea Girt resident Bob Ferguson will light the Christmas tree, followed by a visit and greeting from Mr. and

Mrs. Claus at 7:15 p.m. Hot cocoa from Ray’s Cafe will be provided, and a bonfire will be going throughout the night.

This annual community event includes involvement from the Sea Girt Fire Department and Sea Girt Police Department, as well as the Department of Public Works who decorates the tree, hangs lights in the open-air Holiday Market and sets up the gazebo for the Claus’.

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# Holiday decorating contest returns to Squan

BY ELLIOTT NGUYEN  
STAR NEWS GROUP

**MANASQUAN** — The annual Holiday Home Decorating Contest will continue for its third year, hosted by the Manasquan Recreation Department.

Residents hoping to showcase their holiday decorating skills can register through Communi-

ty Pass starting on Nov. 27 until Dec. 18. A list of the entered homes will become available to view at the recreation section of the borough website, found at [manasquan-nj.gov/recreation-department](http://manasquan-nj.gov/recreation-department).

Once registration closes, voting will open and last from Dec. 19 to

Dec. 23. All Manasquan residents are welcome to vote on their favorite decorated homes, even those who are not participating in the decoration contest.

“We encourage that,” said Recreation Director Steve Antonucci.

Residents should vote by emailing Mr. Anto-

nucci at [santonucci@manasquan-nj.gov](mailto:santonucci@manasquan-nj.gov) with the address of the house they like the most as well as, if they feel inclined to include it, what they like the most about the house. Recreation department staff may vote as well, said Mr. Antonucci.

He emphasized that professionally-decorated

homes do not qualify for submission.

Once the voting period ends, winners will be notified by the email they registered with. The recreation department will post pictures of the winning homes to the department website and, likely after the new year, deliver prizes to the winners at their homes. The prizes are as follows:

“First place winner will receive a \$100 gift card and a 2024 season adult beach badge.

Second place will receive a \$100 gift card to a local restaurant.

Third place will receive a \$50 gift card to a local restaurant.

Fourth Place will receive a \$25 gift card to a local restaurant.”

Mr. Antonucci said that the restaurant to which winners will receive gift cards, as well as the exact date that they will receive their prizes, has yet to be determined.

The idea for this contest first came about during a department meeting, and its members felt the contest would be interesting to try out, said Mr. Antonucci.

He described it as “very receptive over the last few years,” saying that they have had between 40 and 50 houses participate and have had high voting participation as well, such that processing the votes can take some time.

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# Point Boro to light tree at annual holiday market

BY TOMMY WATTERS  
STAR NEWS GROUP

**POINT PLEASANT** — The borough of Point Pleasant will usher in the holiday season on Dec. 2 with the annual tree lighting ceremony.

From 4 to 8 p.m., residents of Point Pleasant can experience a winter wonderland at Community Park, which will include family-fun for all ages, according to Mayor Robert Sabosik.

Available will be bouncy houses, carriage rides, a special holiday train and a marketplace throughout the park featuring local businesses and holiday treats.

On top of the holiday treats, food trucks and food vendors will be available all evening throughout the park as well.

The holiday market is sponsored by the Point Pleasant Chamber of Commerce.



FILE PHOTO STAR NEWS GROUP

**Each year, Point Pleasant Borough hosts a tree lighting ceremony, ushering in the holiday season. This year, the event will take place in Community Park from 4 to 8 p.m.**

Along with this, special characters, who the

mayor wanted to keep a surprise, will be around all evening to entertain and interact with the children of the community. He also alluded to a very special jolly guest making an appearance when the tree lighting occurs.

“I believe since the kids in Point Pleasant and the infants have been good, not naughty this year, I firmly believe Santa will be coming to this event,” said Mayor Sabosik.

“This is part of our culture. We have honed this the last few years to get people out to enjoy what Point Pleasant has to offer. They get kinship with their neighbors and kids, young and old, have fun. That is what our parks are meant to do, our parks are meant to be used to the best of the town’s ability to include all ages. That’s why we enjoy these events.”

# Belmar PD to present 2023 Santa Toy Delivery

STAR NEWS GROUP

The Belmar Police Department will be organizing the 2023 Santa Toy Delivery on Wednesday, Dec. 13, where Santa will be delivering toys to the children in Belmar and Lake Como residences.

Wrapped gifts with the child’s name and address

clearly identified may be dropped off at respective drop-off locations from Dec. 4 until Dec. 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The drop-off location for Belmar residents has been updated for this year’s event and will now be collected at the Belmar Police Department, located through the back

parking lot entrance at borough hall [601 Main Street]. The drop-off location for Lake Como residents has been designated as borough hall [1740 Main Street].

Deliveries are scheduled to begin at 4 p.m., however no exact times are guaranteed for Santa’s arrival.

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# Lightings of Christmas tree and Menorah are planned in Brick

BY ANTHONY ROSSICS  
STAR NEWS GROUP

**BRICK TOWNSHIP** — Brick will kick off the 2023 holiday season with its annual tree lighting on Nov. 29 and its Menorah Lighting on Dec. 7.

Mayor Lisa Crate said, “Ring in the holiday season with the community is one of my favorite things to do here in Brick Township. We have two opportunities to come together for the holidays.”

“First, our annual Christmas Tree Lighting is taking place on Wednesday, Nov. 29 beginning at 5:30. The second opportunity for the community to join us for a holiday event will be Thursday, Dec. 7 at 5:30 for our annual Menorah Lighting,” said Mayor Crate.

Both events will take place at the municipal

complex at 401 Chambers Bridge Road.

“One of the things I love best about our holiday events is the singing. We have choral students from Brick Township and Brick Memorial singing holiday favorites and then of course seeing all of the kids excited about meeting the one and only Santa Claus,” said Mayor Crate.

The tree lighting will have hot cocoa and cookies for visitors.

According to the mayor, the township also invites the community into town hall to view trees that are decorated by community groups including the Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, PBA and Brick Garden Club and many more.

Mayor Crate said, “I definitely feel like the tree lighting marks the beginning of the holiday

season and I can't wait to celebrate with the community.”

## MENORAH LIGHTING

Last year's Menorah Lighting was led by Temple Beth Or's Rabbi Robert Rubin.

The Rabbi led the menorah lighting in song, gave a dreidel demonstration and also a Hanukkah history lesson at the township event.

According to Rabbi Rubin, Hanukkah has many different messages with one being religious freedom and another the acceptance of others.

Rabbi Rubin said that the word Hanukkah means dedication and that during the holiday, people dedicate themselves to what happened nearly 2,200 years ago.

## Old Wall Historical Society to present Christmas open house

STAR NEWS GROUP

Old Wall Historical Society [OWHS] is having a Christmas-themed open house on Sunday, Dec. 3 from 2 to 5 p.m.. The museum, which is located at 1701 New Bedford Rd., will be deco-

rated with Christmas ornaments with a Christmas tree presented in its main foyer. Free tours will be given to those who attend. The society plans on unveiling new displays at the museum, and will be handing out refreshments such

as cookies and punch. Those interested in the event can sign up on the society's Facebook ["Old Wall Historical Society"] or can contact OWHS Director and Wall Township historian De Hearn at 732-681-3806.

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# Holiday activities offered at Allaire area sites

BY ALEX LAMATTINA  
STAR NEWS GROUP

**WALL TOWNSHIP** — The Historic Village at Allaire and the Allaire Community Farm are offering events from Thanksgiving week through the month of December to spread cheer and celebrate the holiday season.

Among the planned events is a light show and a lantern tour at the farm, which is located at 1923 Baileys Corner Road.

It will start on Friday, Nov. 24 and end Saturday, Dec. 23. The show is being held every Thursday through Sunday, from 4 to 8 p.m., which includes a visit from Santa Claus from 5 to 7 p.m.

Visitors will also be able to purchase tickets for the farm's Polar Ex-



COURTESY OF THE HISTORIC VILLAGE AT ALLAIRE

The Historic Village at Allaire will be draped and covered in bows and ribbons for visitors to experience Christmas in the 1800's. Caroling, seasonal baked goods and a visit to the museum are available to help visitors get into the Christmas spirit.

press ride, Yuletide wagon ride and hot chocolate, all for \$3 according to the farm's website.

The farm will also have an indoor and outdoor petting zoo, with animals from the farm to greet

children. Santa Claus will be in the farm's museum for pictures, where families can stop and

watch Christmas movies or visit the organization's model train house.

SEE **ALLAIRE** PAGE 37



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# ALLAIRE FROM PAGE 36

The farm, per its website, states that visitors will have “peace of mind” being aware that all proceeds of the event go directly into its mission as a nonprofit organization, as well as “positively contributing to our rescued animals and programs for special needs individuals, teens with mental health issues.”

Tickets for the light show are only available at the door the day of visitation. Children 18 years of age and under are sold for \$6 and adults’ tickets are \$10. Children under one are free to enter.

### ALLAIRE VILLAGE LANTERN TOURS

For two weekends, Historic Village at Allaire is holding “Christmas at Allaire”, seeing the vil-

lage transformed into an “enchanted showcase of holiday cheer,” according to the village’s website.

Held on Sundays, Dec. 10 and Dec. 17 from 4 to 7 p.m., the nonprofit organization is dressing up and displaying activities as if it were taking place during the 1800’s.

The village will be lit with Christmas lights and decked in bows and ribbons as patrons can visit the property’s gift store, bakery for seasonal goods and the chapel for caroling and a visit from Santa Claus, who is making multiple appearances in Wall Township this year.

For tickets pre-ordered at \$8 and at the door the day of for \$10, families will be able to participate in an array of Victorian holiday celebrations, from ornament making to “traditional party games.”



COURTESY OF THE HISTORIC VILLAGE AT ALLAIRE

Allaire Community Farm’s Old Fashioned Christmas Show involves bright decorations, a model train display and a visit from Santa Claus. The event runs from Nov. 24 to Dec. 23.

Patrons have the opportunity to drop holiday cards off at the Allaire Post Office, where they

can have a hand-cancelled limited edition holiday postmark affixed by the village’s postmaster.

Register for this event at [eventbrite.com/o/the-historic-village-at-allaire](http://eventbrite.com/o/the-historic-village-at-allaire) or call the village office at 732-919-3500.



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## Faith + Blue Christmas Toy Drive benefits several charities

BY SAMANTHA SMITH  
STAR NEWS GROUP

**SEA GIRT** — The annual Faith + Blue Christmas Toy Drive is looking forward to another successful holiday season, with donations benefiting a local agency and nonprofit organization.

The drive is a collaboration between Sea Girt and Manasquan Police Departments and local ministries comprised of parishes in Sea Girt, Manasquan, Brielle, Spring Lake, Spring Lake Heights and Wall.

Organizers welcome donations of unwrapped toys, with a \$25 maximum on gift cards to be dropped at Sea Girt Borough Hall. A separate box will be available for parents and students only to make donations at Sea Girt Elementary School.

Toys will be given to children in the Monmouth County Division of Child Protection and Permanency [DCP&P] and the Navy League Angel Program, Angel Program of New Jersey, a nonprofit who provides support to the military families of servicemembers at Naval Weapon Station Earle, in Colts Neck.

At St. Denis Church Parking Lot at 90 Union Ave., Manasquan on Saturday, Dec. 9 from noon to 3 p.m.

The church also will be open for donation drop-offs and invites residents to spend a few minutes conversing face-to-face with the officers, other community members and ministries

while enjoying music and cookies, hot cocoa and coffee served from the Manasquan PBA Local 284 trailer, with Manasquan Police Department spearhead Sgt. John Ringo.

“For me, especially at this time with polarization, this is something that is the opposite of that,” said Rev. William Lago of St. Denis Church in Manasquan.

“It’s all about bringing people together and really building bridges and giving opportunities for people to interact in a particular place that’s meant to be for joyfulness, and for a good cause,” he said.

The police departments and faith-based leaders from southern Monmouth County will be present to help unload vehicles and collect the toys to then be delivered that Monday.

“All of the police departments, we meet with the ministerium quarterly, and that’s kind of how we [Sea Girt] got involved last year,” said Sea Girt Police Chief Justin Macko.

The drive is focused around Faith + Blue, a na-

tional initiative that takes place every October with a goal of “build bridges with the community and law enforcement but going through faith-based and organizations,” according to Chief Macko.

Chief Macko said that the department took a kind of different approach, instead of having a larger one-day event and only over the weekend, that holding these smaller events really brings the community and faith, and the police together.

“It’s the right time of the year to give, there’s a lot of people in need right now,” said Chief Macko.

Chief Macko and Rev. Lago recalled the overwhelming number of toys received and the overall success of last year’s drive.

“Since it was such a great community event, and also the impact of the toys given, it was a no-brainer to have it again and host it again,” said Rev. Lago.

“It’s important to be immersed in the community,” Chief Macko said.

## Wreaths available to sponsor for Manasquan cemetery

STAR NEWS GROUP

The Governor William Livingston Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will be placing wreaths through Wreaths Across America on the graves of veterans at the Atlan-

tic View Cemetery in Manasquan on Dec. 16 at noon. Those wishing to contribute may sponsor a wreath for \$17 each. Cheques should be made out to “GWL Chapter of the DAR” and mailed to Jane Sink, 121 Jordan Road, Brick, NJ 08724.



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# Point Pleasant Elks lodge to host Santa Claus for photos and treats

BY TOMMY WATTERS  
STAR NEWS GROUP

**POINT PLEASANT BEACH —** The Point Pleasant Elks will once again be hosting the big man himself, Santa Claus, at the lodge for residents to come take pictures with.

In this free event, residents are encouraged to bring the whole family, even the pets, as everyone can get the chance to meet with Mr. Claus to tell them what they want for Christmas.

The event will take place on Sunday, Dec. 17, from 12 to 2 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 820 Arnold Ave.

While Santa will not be handing out presents

to all the good boys and girls of the community, he will be offering a slew of Christmas cookies and goodie bags everyone will be welcomed to. There will even be treats for the furry friends who attend as well.

Run by the Special Children's Committee, the lodge will be decorated with Christmas decorations to further push the Christmas spirit.

Tom Watters, chairman of the committee, said during COVID, the lodge had to adapt to what type of events they could run.

The lodge had always invited Santa to meet the children whose parents are members of the

lodge, however, last year was the first year the Elks opened up the event to the community.

Mr. Watters had said last year's event was a rousing success, with dozens from the community coming out to not only support the lodge, but to also take pictures with Santa as well.

He was also surprised with how many pet owners had brought their dogs, realizing that many Santa photos are not designed with dogs or pets in mind.

Some of the treats and goodies will be made by many volunteers of the lodge, while others will be made by the Life Skills class of Point Pleasant

Borough High School, a special education course helping children with disabilities prepare for the real world. The Elks have worked closely with Life Skills class in the past, and plan to continue to do so with this event.

"We wanted to create an event all are welcome to, regardless of background," Mr. Watter said.

"The holidays are time for giving back to the community, and we here at the Elks believe that."

He further wanted to thank his team of volunteers, along with the Veterans Committee of the lodge, who will decorate the lodge very merrily for the event.



FILE PHOTO STAR NEWS GROUP

Santa Claus will be at the Point Pleasant Elks Lodge on Dec. 17 from 12 to 2 p.m., taking pictures with children, special needs children and pets to celebrate the holiday season.



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# Holy Trinity to open doors for caroling Dec. 2

BY ELLIOTT NGUYEN  
STAR NEWS GROUP

SPRING LAKE — Continuing a longstanding tradition, the Church of the Holy Trinity in Spring Lake will hold its annual Carols by Candlelight singalong on Saturday, Dec. 2 inside the church, which sits on the corner of Monmouth and Third Avenues.

The carol sing starts at 5 p.m. and will include a number of holiday classics and is open to all, regardless of faith.

“It’s our gift to the community,” said Scott McMurray, a member of the church. He clarified that though there will not be a mass involved and it is not an explicitly religious event, some of

the songs to be sung are religious in nature.

One of the songs, according to Mr. McMurray, will be what he called a “competitive singalong” of “The 12 Days of Christmas,” in which the carolers are separated by pews and the different pews sing different parts of the song.

“It goes up and down,” said Mr. McMurray. “Gets the kids energized and funny.”

After some more up-tempo songs, the caroling will wrap up with the song “Silent Night,” sung by candlelight.

Mr. McMurray described it as a “moving, quiet candlelight version.”

He said, “This is a community-wide celebration that kicks off the Christ-



COURTESY OF NATALIE HOWE

The carol sing will take place inside the historic church and end with the song “Silent Night,” sung by candlelight.

mas season for revelers of all persuasions and often attracts a standing room only crowd.”

The church is heated and air conditioned, said Mr. McMurray, assuaging any concerns about the December weather.

Supporting the carolers will be All That Brass, a local brass ensemble led by church organist David Citron, who plays the tuba as part of the group.

“First rate musicians, every one of them,” said Mr. McMurray. “It adds that brass sound which resonates really well in the space and complements the organ, adds to the experience for everybody.”

The group will have a small performance, he said, but will also be playing along with the carolers for the other songs. He added that the group has played at the event several times in recent years.

He complimented Mr. Citron, saying, “He’s a talented guy.”

Carolers can expect to be surrounded by many of their peers, said Mr. McMurray. He added, “we really do fill the place most years.”

## THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Mr. McMurray said that the historic church is Spring Lake’s oldest, constructed in 1880, before Spring Lake itself became a borough. The church is on both the state and national Register of Historic Places.

The organ, also historic, used to run on water pressure, said Mr. McMurray, though it has since been converted.

He said, “It really is an institution in the community.”

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# Wall United Methodist Church bazaar offered head start to holidays

BY PALOMA AFFINITO  
STAR NEWS GROUP

**SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS —** The Wall United Methodist Church in Heights hosted its annual Holiday Bazaar on Friday, Oct. 27 and Saturday, Oct. 28.

The two-day event offered homemade holiday treats for purchase.

On the first day of the bazaar, Mary LaPolla, who organized the event said, "As you can see it is only 20 after and there are a lot of people here and it's good to see."

"Usually the people waiting are waiting out

the door for the jewelry table, now everyone is buying everything," said Ms. LaPolla.

Lynn McMahon, a local resident of Spring Lake Heights, shared that her and her husband, Kevin, attend the bazaar every year. Ms. McMahon said, "We can walk to it. This is probably the best bazaar that not many people know about. The women are so sweet and there is a great selection of plants."

Attendees were eligible to win a handmade holiday quilt and an emoji quilt for kids.

There was an array of baked goods and homemade soups. The selection of handmade crafts that were available for purchase could make great gifts for a loved one during the holiday season.

The church strives to help the less fortunate families who struggle to make the holidays the happiest time of the year. All proceeds contributed towards the missionaries that the church is involved in.

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# Holiday for Hope at Jersey Shore Animal Center

BY ANTHONY ROSSICS  
 STAR NEWS GROUP

**BRICK TOWNSHIP** — Holiday for Hope Pet Photos with Santa will be held at the Jersey Shore Animal Center on Dec. 3.

This year's event is the second annual Holiday for Hope and all donations and proceeds are used for the rescue, medical care and rehoming of abused and abandoned animals for the Jersey Shore Animal Center.

"We strictly rely on donations and fundraising events to help us continue to work in our Mission to help as many animals as possible, which has been going on for more than 42 years," said Executive Director of the Jersey Shore Animal Center, Laurie Fasinski.

According to the executive director, the team of staff and volunteers at

the center are excited for the upcoming Holiday of Hope event for its animals.

Ms. Fasinski said, "The entire event is one of my favorites but the best part is seeing all our friends, especially our shelter alumni and just a wonderful outpouring of love by our community."

Ms. Fasinski told The Ocean Star that, "Most of the animals that come to see Santa are dogs but in the past we have had reptiles and small animals."

According to Ms. Fasinski, as long as the animals are friendly, properly secured and not scared, they are allowed.

This year's event will feature special guests Wish Upon a Jar.

On Wish Upon A Jar, Ms. Fasinski said, "Wish Upon A Jar are dear friends, donors and supporters of our shelter and

have also adopted for us. to see Santa are dogs but in the past we have had reptiles and small animals."

A swag sale will also be held during the photo session, where people can buy T-shirts, coffee mugs and recyclable tote bags.

"It is an opportunity to have something fun for the community, and for our animals to receive much deserved attention, and to simply spread joy and happiness," said Ms. Fasinski.

According to Ms. Fasinski, there will be elves present to help with the photos and they will have a bake sale with fresh baked goodies and refreshments.

Ms. Fasinski said, "Spread the word, come have fun while helping the animals!"

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# Brielle Library opens holiday coat drive

STAR NEWS GROUP

The Brielle Public Library is holding a holiday coat drive throughout the entire month of December, starting on Friday, Dec.1.

In conjunction with The Church in Brielle, the library is hoping to obtain clean, new or gen-

tly worn coats and jackets for men, women and children that are washable.

According to the library's director, Maribeth Pelly, the coat drive will run the whole day and donations can be dropped off at both the library or the church, which is located at 821

Riverview Dr. Sweat-shirts or hoodies that are lightly worn are also accepted by the library and those who participate can have any outstanding balances with the library voided. For more information, email Library Director Maribeth Pelly at mpelly@monmouth-countylib.org.





FILE PHOTO STAR NEWS GROUP

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be visiting Bennett Cabin again this year at Riverfront Park to hear the christmas wishes of all the boys and girls of Point Pleasant.

# Santa and Mrs. Claus coming to Bennett Cabin

BY TOMMY WATTERS  
STAR NEWS GROUP

**POINT PLEASANT** — The historic Bennett Cabin, located at Riverfront Park, will once again be hosting Mr. and Mrs. Claus for two days of Christmas cheer, where residents can visit the cabin and get a picture with the Christmas couple.

The free event will be on Saturday, Dec. 16 and Sunday, Dec. 17 from 2 to 5 p.m.

Keeping up the traditions from previous years, model trains will

be set up inside the cabin for families to enjoy.

Rich Morris, event coordinator, said there will also be homemade cookies and hot chocolate handed out to all those who may be waiting in line to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus themselves.

One family at a time will get a chance to meet Santa, with a professional photographer ready to take and print the family's picture, which will also be printed before the family leaves the cabin. Mr. Morris also said every kid will receive a gift from Santa.

Mr. Morris commended his whole team of volunteers who not only bake plenty of cookies for the event, but also help decorate the cabin, inside and out, preparation for the event.

"Decorating it became this now Christmas event that we have, and it's really a nice thing," said Mr. Morris.

This event began roughly 10 years ago, according to Mr. Morris, after the cabin was moved and refurbished from its original location near Beaver Dam Creek.

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# Ocean County GOP women fill packages for military members

STAR NEWS GROUP

**LAVALLETTE** — The Ocean County Federation of Republican Women's Armed Services Committee is holding a "Support Our Troops" supply drive, with the goal of collecting monetary and supplemental donations in order to send care packages to members of the military around the world.

In addition to money, the Federation is accepting the following supplies for the care package drive: sunscreen/lotion, shaving cream, razors, dental hygiene products, wipes, non-aerosol insect repellent, lip balm, tissues, over-the-counter medical supplies, eye drops, cooling towels, sports and games [balls, cards, board games], shirts, non-perishable

food like candy, jerky, nuts and powdered drink mixes, writing utensils, soap and old cell phones.

"The \$1.25 white socks from Dollar Tree have been a big hit with the troops," according to the release. The federation

also suggests travel-sized amenities like shampoo and conditioner as being ideal for these packages.

For more information, contact Anita Zalom at 732-691-2679. Ms. Zalom is accepting donations at 103 President Ave.



STAR NEWS GROUP

**BRADLEY BEACH** — Bradley Beach Business and Community Alliance [BBBCA] is currently hosting its fourth annual Holiday Giving Drive, which continues through Dec. 15 to benefit children who attend the Bradley Beach Elementary School and the Bradley Food Pantry.

There are collection bins stationed throughout Bradley Beach in lo-

cal businesses and public spaces for donation drop offs until Dec. 15.

There are a total of 10 collection bins located throughout the town. Collection bins can be found at Borough Hall, Bradley Beach, Bradley Car Care, Country Farms Convenience Store, Du-Visage, Green Lotus Yoga, Jersey Shore Fitness, Kearny Bank, the Bradley Beach Library, Marandola's, Perfect Perk Cafe, the post office,

Stock Room and Tiffany's Salon.

BBBCA is offering a porch pick up day this Sunday on Nov. 19 where residents can leave gifts out on their porch by 9 a.m. Volunteers will pick up gifts left out by residents during a town-wide street by street sweep.

There is a wish list of items on the BBBCA website for the children such as desired toys, hats, gloves and sweatshirts.

Tweens between 10 to 12 are in need of games and craft materials.

Ines Zimmerman, chair of the drive said, "Last year's 'Holiday Giving Drive' was so successful. The families were so grateful and delighted. We hope to make this a joyous tradition."

The BBBCA is a non-profit 501 that continues to thank everyone for their continued generosity.

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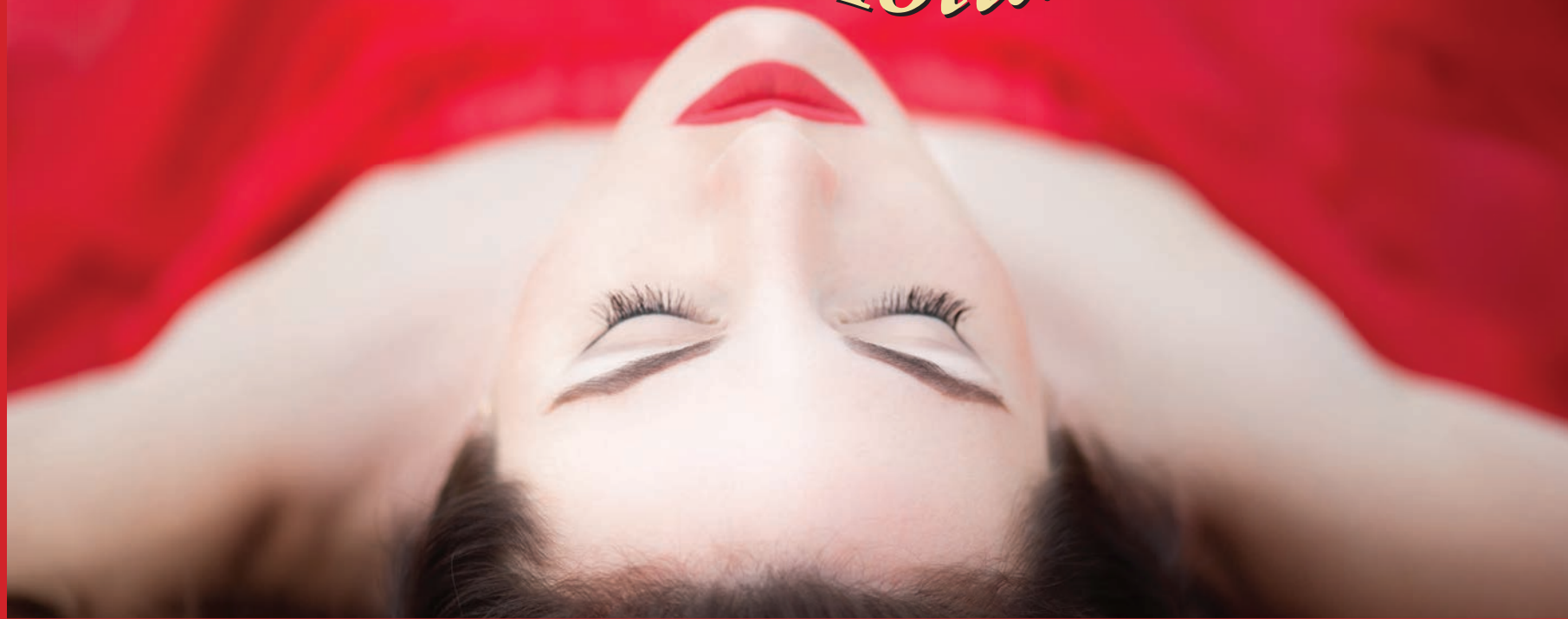
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