

parade started at Harding Township Elementary School about 3:30 pm. The parade included the engines and ambulances of the New Vernon Fire Department and First aid squad, several police vehicles, a World War II Jeep

py Birthday. There was also a bagpiper in the parade. The parade was quite loud with the sirens from Fire Trucks and Ambulances, honking of all the cars and the Bagpipes," she said. "At the end of the pa-

and hasn't stopped smiling," she said. Hurd Fetchko said she was only too glad to help. And she said his daughter also organized a card drive. "Her dad received 250 birthday cards from old friends, classmates, and

ident has lived in Harding for more the 63 years, raising his three children in town while working at Bell Labs. He served in the U.S. Navy on a minesweeper during WWII.

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school's Flocktown-Kossmann Elementary School campus. It hosts students ranging from Pre-K to second grade. Mohre's message did not mention anything about the Flocktown facility which hosts grades 3-5. In the Nov. 30 notification, Mohre listed four separate

identify any close contacts and notifying them by the end of the day, Nov. 30. Individuals who may have been exposed are required to quarantine for a period of 14 days. Members of the school nursing

PLEASE SEE COVID, PAGE 3

# Coronavirus can't stop this holiday tradition

WASHINGTON TWP. - At a time when holiday traditions have been tough to maintain, Long Valley has managed to keep one of them intact.

Residents who travelled around town on Saturday noticed that the practice of hanging Christmas wreaths on the white fences leading into certain parts of the town has continued unabated.

The annual fundraiser for the Washington Township Interfaith Food Pantry continued as scheduled with some minor tweaking in its execution. Those interested in sponsoring a \$20 wreath for the pantry can do it through the organization's website at [www.lvcap.org](http://www.lvcap.org) (Long Valley Community Assistance Programs).

There will also be envelopes at various locations

around Long Valley (Ort Farms, Hoffman Supply, Peacock-Gladstone Bank and the Washington Township Public Library), for those wishing to donate by check. Donations can also be sent to the Long Valley Presbyterian Church, 39 Bartley Road, Long Valley, NJ 07853.

The LVCAP is a group of nine interdenominational local churches dedicated to serving our community. Along with the food pantry the organization also runs the Washington Township Emergency Fund to help families with serious financial need.

It took less than an hour for volunteers to hang more than 300 wreaths on fence posts along East Mill Road, Bartley Road and Newburgh Road. At 9 a.m. about 50 volunteers, many

of them members of Boy Scouts of America Troop 236, gathered at Valley View Chapel on East Mill Road to hang up the wreaths that were provided by Ort Farms. Around 30 volunteers, most of them from the West Morris Central High School group Highlanders for Humanity did the honors along Newburgh Road.

"This is our 19th consecutive year of doing it," said Bob Falcone, an officer of Long Valley's Troop 236. "We usually get a great turnout. This is a great fundraiser for the food pantry. This is the only fundraiser they have to raise cash to buy food for the pantry and if a family has trouble paying bills, they help out the family."

Falcone noted that the organizers had to make some changes. The bow tying



Photo by Mark Kitchin

Members of Long Valley's Boy Scouts of America Troop 236 assembled in front of Valley View Chapel on Saturday morning in order to place Christmas wreaths on fences on West Mill Road and Bartley Road as part of fundraiser for the local food pantry.

party traditionally held the day after Thanksgiving at one of the Ort Farms greenhouses to make the wreaths

was cancelled due to COVID concerns Registration the day of the event was outside the church and no

refreshments were served. The groupings of the scouts

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# STOP: Family units together

FROM PAGE 1

(and high school students) were different, too.

"For safety purposes, with the boy scouts, we are working as family units," Falcone said. "Nobody works outside their family unit. A scout couldn't come by himself. He had to have a parent or sibling and work as a team with their family."

Even with COVID concerns, few Scouts thought twice about volunteering to hang the wreaths. Many of them have been doing it since they started scouting and it has become a family tradition.

"This is my sixth year," Troop 236 Scout Anthony Rocco of Mount Olive said. "I come every year. I used to come and make the wreaths the week before and hang them and I used to bring my mom and dad and sister. It's just a great time. It is a great way to get into the holiday spirit."

Flanders' Johanna Moore came to support her sons 16-year-old James and 13-year-old Jonathan, who also belong to the troop.

"This is my first year doing the hanging of the wreaths," Moore said. "It's a nice way to come out and spend some time with family friends and support the community."

Scouts are required to perform a certain amount of community service hours in order to fulfill their annual requirements. COVID restrictions have made it more difficult than in years past, but it has also become a test of an individual's resourcefulness and imagination.

"Sometimes you just have to be creative in what you do," Moore said. "I think if you just look at different programs that you are involved in, you can find some way to volunteer. My one son was doing temperature checks and questionnaires for COVID. We are going to be doing wreaths across America in December with the family."

There has been perilously little camping this year for the scouts, but they have learned to adjust.

"It's a lot of online meetings," Rocco said. "We carry out what we normally do outside with our masks on. ... We are having a lot of fun. It's been different at the start but now we are starting to get into the swing of things and we have a routine going."

Long Valley families have all been generous this time of year. There are around 70 local families that belong to the food pantry. Recent efforts



Photos by Mark Kitchin

Mount Olive's Anthony Rocco, left, and Johanna Moore of Flandes pose in front of a Christmas wreath hung on a Bartley Road fence on Saturday. Members and supporters of Long Valley Boy Scouts of America Troop 236 and other volunteers hung the wreaths as part of a fundraiser for the Washington Township Interfaith Food Pantry.



Wreaths are placed along the fence on West Mill Avenue leading into Long Valley as part of a fundraiser for the Washington Township Interfaith Food Pantry.

have helped assure that they will have enough supplies to celebrate the holidays.

"We are doing really well," LVCAP event coordinator Sue Spina said. "We just had a stuff the bus event. Normally that happens in October but because of COVID and getting the schools organized, we didn't do it until two weeks ago. The response as always was overwhelming."

"We will be good through the end of the year, then we start to ask for donations again sometime around February."

Even the food pantry has had to make changes in how they do business.

"Because we are only letting one person in the building at a time, we are pre-packing bags," Spina said. "When we didn't have enough of what we needed, we went out and bought it. We had a really large donation that covered that. It was very well received. We will do the same thing for

Christmas."

They have also continued making Blessing Baskets which was started last year and became a success.

"It's for our single and elderly clients," Spina said. "It was so well received that we continued it this year. The Harrington family of Hoffman Supply is donating most of the items. The Chocolate Shoppe is donating boxes of chocolates."

There is a list of needs on the LVCAP website for those wishing to make personal donations. However, the food pantry been holding steady on supplies and at present is not in serious need of any one item, which is good news for all involved.

"We are trying to make it through 2020 like everyone else," Spina said. "We hope the new year brings us some good news. And we want to be here to help people when they need it."



The Minutemen will have a new baseball infield to play on when they take the field next year.

# 'A LITTLE BIT OF GOOD NEWS

## Baseball infield renovation is finished

By AMIT BATRA  
SPORTS EDITOR

MENDHAM TWP. — The Mendham High School baseball program will have a new field to play on once the Minutemen are back in action.

Mendham recently had its infield redone, and the program is excited for the future with this renovation.

"The administration got on board and the high school did a great job of getting money together," said Mendham head coach Brian Weingart.

"The Diamond Club, the administration, the team, the high school were all very supportive. This project doesn't get done without collaborative support, and everyone bought into the idea. Everyone on down played a huge part."

Of course, field conditions and upgraded facilities play an enormous part in any sport these days. Teams across all levels continue to build bigger and better fields, stadiums and more. For Mendham, it is no different.

"We want to set ourselves to high expectations and

standards," Weingart added. "Our field had some issues, and they were addressed."

Mendham's last renovation came in 2012.

In a year with so much negativity and the spring season teams weren't able to compete during their normal time due to the pandemic, Weingart said this news brought a ton of joy around the community. "It was a little bit of good news," he said. "It was some good news in a period of time where good news was hard to come by."

Mendham competed in a summer program and the state's "Last Dance" tournament over the summer for a proper sendoff for the seniors.

The Minutemen finished 13-7 in 2019, the last time they were able to play a season. While much is up in the air still for the 2021 season, Weingart is confident the team will be able to see the field.

"I believe there will be a delay to the season," the coach said. "It's hard to see otherwise with some winter sports starting mid-January and others going un-

til the end of the season. We will later start doing practices. Athletes deserve assuming it by then."

As for the future, Weingart said the team has a great deal.

Weingart said the team has a great deal. "We were able to get through the season without any major issues. We have a lot of players and we have a positive attitude."

"We were able to get through the season without any major issues. We have a lot of players and we have a positive attitude."

"If the fundam form u we have cessful this pro kids th ten an

# HERO: Finds time to g

FROM PAGE 1

He is a regular volunteer in Harding civic groups and was recently featured in a commercial for Morristown Medical Center advocating for heart health. These days, he can often be seen...



# COVID: Kossmann is closed

FROM PAGE 1

the district has coordinated closely with public health officials, and a clear connection between the cases