

🔔 It's beginning to look
a lot like Christmas
everywhere you go in Goshen 🎵



The Ellis family of Goshen caught up with Mr. and Mrs. Claus along with one of their elves who were all on hand for the Santa Breakfast event at First Presbyterian Church in Goshen.

Thank you Ray Quattrini, Gerry Hluchan, Elizabeth Reveille Hluchan, and Maureen Quattrini for the festive decorations at the fountain in the Village of Goshen! It looks beautiful!



Saturday, December 2nd was a very busy day for Santa. Not quite as busy as he'll be on Christmas Eve, but it was still a long day. Santa was at the First Presbyterian Church for breakfast and spent time at Glen Arden for their Holiday Market before hopping on this fire truck to help Goshen's firefighters distribute candy canes throughout the town and village.



Some of the people behind the scenes to pull together the Village Tree Lighting and Holiday Pop Up Mart Saturday afternoon and evening. L-R: Melanie Tocco, VP Chamber Board; Lisa Clancy, Chamber's Managing Director; Santa, Mayor Molly O'Donnell (also Illuminate Goshen VP and Chamber Board President Kristen O'Donnell).

2023 CATHOLIC CHARITIES CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOURS
INDOOR AND OUTDOOR

Photos by Maurice Mercado



GPL&HS Junior Friends hand out 150
books to local children at Village Tree
Lighting By Jasmine Fernandez

At the Goshen Tree Lighting, the Junior Friends of the Goshen Public Library gave away over one hundred and fifty books to kids of all ages. These free books were all community donations. The book giveaway at the tree lighting is a favorite Junior Friends event.

"It's so great to see the whole community come together!" Junior Friends treasurer Grant Moore said.

"Getting kids excited about reading is our main goal, and it's wonderful to see so many smiles at the tree lighting!" said Amanda Fernandez, Sr, President of Junior Friends.

The Friends of the Goshen Public Library used bookstore, located inside the Goshen Public Library, is open Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 4 PM. On Saturdays, the Junior Friends are in the bookstore from 12 PM to 4 PM. The event was a great success, special thanks to everyone who donated books!



(From Left to Right) Junior Friends Anna Heater, Mehri Ghezal-Ayagh, Amanda Fernandez, Jasmine Fernandez, Grant Moore, Angelina Celio, Dhlana Tawil, Dalton Fortugno-Harris, Luther Fortugno-Harris, Kia Ghezal-Ayagh



CJH Middle School chorus students entertained the attendees of the Glen Arden Holiday Market.

"O Christmas Tree, You Stand In Splendid Beauty"
By Cooper Drummond



Millions of families around the globe are on a quest: to find the perfect Christmas tree to act as the centerpiece of their Christmas celebrations this holiday season. How lucky are we in the Goshen area to have the perfect opportunity to complete our search, right in the middle of the village.

Anyone who has called Goshen their home for more than a few years will share memories of getting their tree in Church Park from various groups. The veteran groups were in charge of tree & wreath sales for many years. So were members of Goshen's firehouses. For the last four years, the Village of Goshen Police Benevolent Association (PBA) has taken the mantle of hosting its annual Christmas tree sale in the shadows of the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen. They are open every day from three to 6 p.m. and 12-6 p.m. on weekends.

The bulk of the PBA profits go to fund their annual John H. Egbertson Sr. Memorial scholarship, which is given out to a graduating GHS student planning to pursue a career in criminal justice, healthcare or becoming a first responder. The scholarship was initiated in 2000, in memory of former VGPD Chief John Egbertson who succumbed to cancer while still serving as chief in December 1999. The rest of the money goes back into the community to fund other local non-profits, such as the Boys and Girls Scouts of America, Goshen youth athletic programs, Wreaths Across America and the 9/11 tour.

As idyllic as the tree lot seems, they have had their share of trouble over the last few years. Sgt. Ryan Rich, who has been heavily involved with the PBA over the years and is currently on the PBA's "tree committee." He shared that he has had to educate himself "throughout the whole experience. Last year, we had a difficult time finding a wholesaler," said Rich. "The first two years we got our trees from Alders, who in turn gets their trees from, I believe, either Maine or Canada. And they told us that they were not going to be doing trees the third year. Because of the diesel costs and other supply chain issues, they recommended we look elsewhere."

"I called all over the place to try to find wholesalers," he continued. "I started with New York State because I want to try to keep it in the state. I called all the upstate wholesalers that are certified through the state and in talking to these farmers, who were all interesting people, all had the same story. They told us about everything from the workforce to the environmental factors, the droughts, the periods of heavy rain. Many couldn't get enough workers. Many of the family farmers simply were running out of family; lacking younger family members with interest in taking over the businesses. There were lot of struggles everywhere we called."

Rich confirmed that they wound up finding a local supplier last minute. "But the quality of trees last year was just terrible. Not every single one of them, but the majority had a lot of defects. They were thin. They look like they were cut a year or two earlier than they should have, I think to try to catch up with the demand. But they were so poor that at the end of the event, there was about 30 some trees that we couldn't sell at all. Fortunately, this year's crop of trees have turned out a lot better. But, weather can still be a factor.

Sgt. Rich says it has been hard to be open on weekends. "It's been raining pretty much every weekend since September... but we will get there. It's still early December and we've just started. We got plenty of time."

"We want to have a tree lot where people can actually look around and struggle to find their perfect one because there's so many to look at," said Sgt. Ryan Rich.

Sgt. Rich summarized by saying, "I think we got the foundation in place for it to continue on for years to come. We are hopeful that tree shortages, environmental, economic and workforce issues are behind us and we can concentrate on making Christmas memories for our community; that's really why we want to keep up this tradition, it is just a really nice thing."

VGPD PBA reminds residents that they'll even deliver your tree with in the village and at a minimum will help anyone secure their new tree to their vehicle.

What are you waiting for? Load your family in your vehicle and find the centerpiece of your 2023 traditions.



The 2023 Motorcade delivering the truckload of wreaths destined for the Orange County Veterans Memorial Cemetery will take place in Goshen on Wednesday, December 13th. The parade will leave Dikeman Firehouse at 10:00 am and proceed through the village, stopping in front of the Government Center, then proceeding to the Veteran's Cemetery. The wreaths will be placed on every veteran's grave and dedicated in a memorial service at 12 noon on Saturday, December 16th.

Every year since 2008, Congress proclaims a Saturday in December as National Wreaths Across America Day. On that day, more than 2 million Veterans' Wreaths will be placed across local, national and military cemeteries as well as veteran memorials and historic sites.

