



Rotary Club of Flemington

New Jersey

Hey Bob,

As a reminder, the Flemington **Christmas Tree Lighting** will take place **tonight**. Read below for the details and history of the event. Also check out an image of the new banner that will be proudly displayed tonight. We hope to see you there! Bring the family!



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING **Ceremony**

Friday, December 4 at 7pm

Dick Stothoff has announced that this year's Christmas Tree lighting will take place on **Friday, 12/4** at the monument on Main Street Flemington near the Presbyterian Church. Rotarians that will be helping Santa Claus to handout candy canes and oranges to the

attending children are asked to meet at 6:45pm behind the Deat's Building in Flemington OR at the Christmas Tree on Main Street at **7pm**.

Santa Claus will be arriving at the Christmas Tree between 7 to 7:15pm, which is preceded by the formal Tree Lighting Ceremony and Christmas Carols that is organized by Flemington Cub Scout Pack 61.

Once the Tree Lighting Ceremony is over, **everyone is invited to the annual After-Party at Dick & Priscilla Stothoff's home!** If you have never attended, please come and bring the family and kids!!!

The Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony is Flemington Rotary's oldest service project, which began in December 1923. This was just after the club first formed on October 3, 1923.

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting event itself has been taking place **since 1922** in the heart of Flemington thanks to the hard work of many volunteers.

Originally done by a small group of volunteers, coordination efforts were taken over by the Flemington Children's Choir and the Flemington Rotary Club. When the Children's Choir

ceased its operations, Cub Scout Pack 61 in Flemington took over the duty of coordinating the tree installation and lighting every year since 1965. The cub scout from Pack 61 that sells the most popcorn during their annual popcorn fundraiser gets the honor of lighting the Christmas Tree!

The Flemington Rotary Club has been **handing out candy canes and oranges ever since 1923**. The group's involvement has been the backbone for the event since that time. Cub Scout Pack 61 and its long time cub master Doug Niece, now deceased, took over the duties in 1965 as a way to ensure that the Christmas Tree tradition continues to this day in Flemington.



Why candy canes and oranges you ask? Back in the 1920's, it was very difficult for children to get some candy and fresh fruit to eat. These days, we can readily purchase these items at our local Supermarket, etc. So it was a VERY BIG deal for the children in attendance to get their huge Candy Cane and Fresh Orange.

Thanks to the Volunteers! A very special thanks to the volunteers that help to make the Tree Lighting a success! They include the Flemington Rotary Club, Cub Scout Pack 61, Samuel Stothoff Company, Tamke Tree Service, Dan Butt, Carpet One, Countryside Veterinary Hospital, the Flemington Borough Fire Department and the Flemington Borough Police Department.

Yours in Rotary,
Bob

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