



# Holidays All Wrapped Up



Lynbrook celebrated the Holiday Season with a number of festive gatherings, which kicked off on November 30th with its Menorah lighting. Festivi-

ties continued throughout the month of December and included a holiday celebration on Atlantic Avenue, complete with a Christmas tree lighting ceremony and

the blessing of the Creche. Of course, Lynbrook was first on Santa's list of places to visit this season as he hosted breakfast at the Knights of Columbus and

greeted kids across the village with a little help from the Lynbrook Fire Department.

Here's our wrap up of all of the festivities!

## Menorah Lighting Ceremony

Mayor Alan Beach, Deputy Mayor Mike Hawxhurst, village trustees Ann Marie Reardon, Robert Boccio, and Laura Ryder along with Nassau County Legislator Bill Gaylor celebrated the start of the Festival of Lights with a ceremony at Stauderman and Forest Avenues. The official start to Hanukkah featured the singing performance of the students from Lynbrook's Temple Am Echad.



*Photos by Bill Marinaccio*



## Atlantic Avenue Holiday Celebration



*Photos by Bill Marinaccio*



Residents from across the village gathered to ring in the holidays during the December 5th Christmas Tree Lighting and Blessing of the Creche.

Rev. Anthony DeCarlo provided the blessing, while the choirs from West End Elementary and Lynbrook High School provided the sounds of the season, and Dance Workshop brought the crowd to their feet with their festive performance!

## Here Comes Santa Claus!

On December 11th, Santa spent the day in his favorite village checking out who has been naughty and nice! The day started with breakfast and magic show, and ended with a tour hosted by the Lynbrook Fire Department and Mayor Beach.



*Photo by Bill Marinaccio*



*Photo by Steve Grogan*



# Gifts of Good Neighbors: Man and Woman of the Year Honored

Lynbrook is a special place thanks to the people who dedicate their time in helping the community. During the village board's December 20th meeting, Lynbrook Police Chief Brian Paladino, and Lynbrook Fire Department Captain Cathy Bien were honored as the Village of Lynbrook's Man and Woman of the Year.

Chief Paladino has many accomplishments on the police force for which this honor could be attributed to however it is his civilian efforts as a coach and board member of the Lynbrook Roller Hockey League (LRHL) that earned him the recognition.

For many of Lynbrook's

children, playing a sport has been a way to socialize with peers, get the body moving, and learn the value of teamwork and sportsmanship. Amid the pandemic, kids saw their seasons cancelled and opportunities lost. However, through the efforts of Chief Paladino, the LRHL implemented Hockey for All, an inclusive skills and practice clinic for children of all ages and abilities. On Friday evenings, members of the LRHL gathered on the rink to learn and play hockey with other league players. The program provided a much-needed respite for Lynbrook's kids during the pandemic. Chief Paladino's wife Jane summed



the impact of Brian's contribution best when she stated, "The pandemic closures made evident the benefits of community programs and as we ease our way into this New Normal, Brian and the LRHL will be there to provide programs that not only provide recreation but also an opportunity to teach cooperation and acceptance." Congratulations, Chief!

Captain Cathy Bien has been a long-time fixture in the Lynbrook community, dedicating much of her time to volunteer work. Her contributions began with teaching religious education at Our Lady of Peace and coaching CYO basketball. She has served on the Village Health and Wellness, Community Chest, and the Beautification Committees. However, it was following the terror attacks on September 11th, 2001 that Captain Bien was inspired to give back to

her community. She joined the Lynbrook Fire Department Medical Company and worked her way to the rank of Captain.

In an effort to expand her life savings skills, she became an EMT and then an AMT. During her 17-year career she has maintained one of the highest percentages of ambulance calls in the LFD. What makes Captain Bien special is how she responds to those in need in a personal and humane manner. There are quite a few of Lynbrook residents that can tell stories of how she goes above and beyond when providing care. From transporting a hospital patient to his son's wedding and back again, to providing a hospice patient with a chance to return home and spend time with his wife, Captain Bien symbolizes Lynbrook's sense of community. Congratulations, Captain!

## Winter Wonderland of Lights

Lynbrook capped the holiday season on December 18th with its tremendously popular drive thru Wonderland of Lights at the Greis Park Trail.

