HFA Spring Fling Egg Hunt a Dashing Success!

By Michele Hulsman

On March 23, 2013, the Hoboken Family Alliance (HFA) Annual Spring Fling Egg Hunt at Columbus Park drew over 700 children and their parents. While it was quite a chilly day, the children were eager to take a stroll through the spring farm to collect their plastic eggs.

After collecting basketfuls of eggs, they traded their eggs in to be reused & recycled for the continuous egg hunt and received a wonderful goody bag full of treats.

We had many other wonderful events for the children including, a Bunny-hop, egg races and scavenger hunts, which were a delight for all of the children participating. To add to their excitement, the Easter Bunny made an appearance and happily posed for pictures.

A “Guess The Number of Jelly Beans” contest enabled one lucky boy and one lucky girl to win a bicycle, which was sponsored by Freeholder, Anthony Romano.

Thank you to all who have made this event possible, including 16 Handles, A&P, Ben & Jerry’s, Boogie Wipes, Edgewater Pediatric Dentistry, GUM Sunstar America, High Mowing Seeds, Honest Kids, Mary’s Gone Crackers, Nordic Naturals, Rita’s, Vibrant Health and Whole Foods. Your generosity is much appreciated and continues to make our events possible along with those of you who attend and participate. We would like to thank our volunteers from the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity at Steven’s Institute of Technology for their assistance along with Jon Tooke, Director of the Department of Public Safety and Chief Blohm, Fire Division Chief from the Hoboken Fire Department for providing the Fire Engines for the children to tour.

Special thanks to our platinum sponsor, RE/MAX Gold Coast Realty, www.hobokenproperties.com. We greatly appreciate our community coming together and helping us create a fun & fantastic event!
Girl Scouts in Hoboken!

By Theresa Howard

Around the world 2.3 million young girls and women are proud to be part of the Girl Scouts sisterhood. And right here in Hoboken, members throughout six troops comprised of more than 100 girls, have taken the pledge and made the promise to follow the Girl Scout Law.

Hoboken has deep roots in scouting. In fact, the scouts had their very own home – the Little House – located at 916 Garden St. But the house gave way to a parking garage in the late 1990s because scouting had completely waned.

But a resurgence began in 2007 with Girls Scout Troop 12402 with the help of two moms. Carrie Phillips had the enthusiasm and Jennifer Hartshorn, a 4th generation Girl Scout from England, had the knowledge and together they started it up again, says Lisa Cavanaugh, who is now the troop leader with Hartshorn. “They started as a Daisy troop and now those girls are Cadette’s soon to embark on their Silver Award, the highest award for Cadette’s to earn.”

Each troop in Hoboken has its own members and leaders and a slightly different focus on either activities, events, community service or, of course, cookies! But each member takes the pledge to follow the Girl Scout law “to make the world a better place.”

Most troops follow a school year calendar and start up with the return to school and wrap up at the end of school. So if you’re interested in joining for fall of 2013, take a look at what troop fits your daughter best:

**Troop 12402**

Leaders: Lisa Cavanaugh and Jennifer Hartshorn
Contact: Lisa at lacavanaugh@msn.com

“We are the oldest troop in Hoboken having started in 2007,” says Cavanaugh. “We have 26 girl scouts, 20 junior level and six cadettes all in Grades 3 - 6. The troop meets every other Friday and runs camping trips each spring and fall and carries out service projects such as beach and park clean ups; singing at homeless shelter, donating cookies and cards to Adopt a Hoboken Soldier, bake sales for Hurricane Sandy victims and marching in parades.”
The troop has also “done some fun things like rock climbing, horseback riding, candle-making, and going to Frost Valley YMCA in February for a weekend of cross country skiing, snow shoeing, ice fishing, hiking and night tubing!”

But it’s not all fun and games. Currently, members are participating in a Business Bazaar in which the kids make and sell craft items and determine the best price based on their costs, profit margin and marketing strategy.

**Troop 12038**
Leaders: Desiree Goldfinger, Vrinda Deva and Cathy Tennaro
Contact: Desiree at dg07030@gmail.com
The Brownies troop began in 2008. It has 18 members and participates in social outings including a scavenger hunt against a local Boy Scouts troop and community events such as helping at the Liberty Humane Society and The Hoboken Shelter.

**Troop 12001**
Leaders: Cathy Tennaro, Zarah Pua, Deidre Phillipson, Stacy Mello,
Contact: Cathy at cathytennaro@optonline.net
The Brownie group that is 19 members strong meets every other Tuesday at Brandt School and participates mostly in field trips to places such as the Crop Shop, Padilla Tae Kwon Do, ice-skating and service projects such as singing Christmas Carols at the Senior Citizen centers.

**Troop 12023**
Leaders Karen Jagatic and Kelesha Armand
Contact: Kelesha at keleshaarmand@gmail.com
This Daisy troop started in the fall of 2012 and has 10 first-grade members from four schools. We have ten first graders from four different schools in town. “Our focus is on fostering a love of learning and leadership, forming friendships, exploring our community, and promoting character and citizenship in a warm, supportive and inviting atmosphere,” says troop leader Armand.

**Troop 12041**
Leaders Valerie Sessa and Shari Simpson-Cabelin
Contact: Shari at sharsim21@aol.com
The troop has 22 girls, many of whom have been together since the troop’s founding four years ago. “We are focused on female leadership, service projects, character growth and camping,” says Simpson-Cabelin.

**Troop 12236**
Leaders: Jen Marsh and Danielle Orlofsky
Contact: Jen at mowerymarsh@gmail.com
The Brownie troop started a year ago and has 13 second and third graders from HOLA, Mustard Seed, and Calabro. “Our goal is to give the girls a caring environment to express themselves, learn new things, and to experience what lies inside and outside our community,” says Marsh.
Troop 12881
Leaders: Jennifer Bankert, Maria Heston, Laureen Modder, and Lori Tindale
Contact: Laureen at l_mazalewski@hotmail.com
The troop started in 2009 as a Daisy Troop and now has 24 second graders from all different schools in town. “Growing into mature Brownies, our focus is on building girls of courage, confidence, and character while exposing them to as many opportunities to discover new things as the local area can offer,” says Modder.

Troop 12022
Contact: Valerie at valerie@valeriesessa.com
The troop began in 2012 as a Daisy troop and now has 26 kindergartners. “Our focus is on creating a nurturing, inclusive environment where the girls can express interests and participate in activities which allow them to form friendships, accountability, have fun, and learn,” says Modder.

The Girl Scout Promise
On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law

The Girl Scout Law
I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do,
and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

**We held another successful HFA Spring Swap Meet on April 6th!**

*By Michele Hulsman*

As in the past, many local residents came to the Hoboken High School to donate and participate in the swap. So many items were swapped by our attendees and still hundreds of items remained to donate. As many of the Hoboken non-profits have received numerous donations from Hurricane Sandy outreach the past six months, we have donated the swap items from this year to another local organization in need, the Riverside Assembly of God Church in Jersey City. Their representatives expressed tremendous gratitude and appreciation when they came to pick up the left over items.

We had one happy winner, Jackie L. of Ridgewood, NJ, who won the Happy Baby Trial Coupons Raffle ($30 value).

We want to give a special thanks to the Hoboken Board of Education for assisting us with the swap location, the fraternity brothers at Alpha Phi Omega for being on site to help us with our event including one brother of the fraternity, Kevin Lourenco, as well as Jorge Rivera, Maria Claros, Jaime Villavicencio, Robert Hale, Nathalie Tran, Abigail Gobeille, Jamie Banhalmi, Brandy Americ, Dominic LoVasco, James Bellafiore, Claudia Monteiro, Shane Raymond and Julie Wilkerson. We also want to give thanks to Margherita’s for generously donating pizza for our volunteers.

The HFA is very proud to have been able to host this event for over 10 years, as it benefits the community, as well as those in need. Any proceeds remaining will go toward the Hoboken Family Alliance Philanthropy fund.

We look forward to seeing you at our next swap event in the fall.

**HFA is welcoming Julie to the team!**

HFA is welcoming Julie as the new HFA event director. Julie and her husband Erik have lived in Hoboken since 2006, and love the spirit of this family-friendly community. Their two-year old son, Theo can be seen (& heard) around town dribbling a ball, running through the sprinklers, and asking “Why?”

Julie is a licensed real estate sales professional which gives her the opportunity to share all the great things Hoboken has to offer. She is excited to plan events for Hoboken families and support the community.
HFA Membership Benefits!

Do not forget to use your HFA membership card to enjoy great discounts! We are happy to announce that starting this month our members can now enjoy 10% off in-home therapy sessions Colleen Rogan, M.A., CCC-SLP, Pediatric Speech and Language Therapy, www.speechinspired.com

Colleen Rogan is a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist in both New York and New Jersey. She holds the American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC-SLP) and is a certified Teacher of Students with Speech and Language Disabilities (TSSLD).

Prior months we announced as well that our members can also now enjoy a 10% discount (excluding sale merchandise) at BATTAGLIA'S HOME, located at 1414 Willow Avenue.

This month Special Discount!

“To thank HFA members for their support of Creative Groove Studio, we are offering the following discounts.

Register and pay for our Summer session by June 15th and get a 15% discount on tuition.

Register and pay for our Fall session by June 15th and get a 20% discount on tuition.

You can register online at http://www.CreativeGrooveStudio.com

We are very grateful to every single family who has supported us for the past eight years.”

We would like to remind you the list of merchants providing discounts to HFA members. Please present your membership HFA card the time of purchase. If you can not find your card, please contact hfamembership@gmail.com to get a new one. Membership entitles you to discount at the following merchants:
Mother’s Day & Father’s Day

Mother’s Day in 2013 is on Sunday, the 12th of May, so Moms mark your calendar and enjoy the day!

Father’s Day 2013 is on Sunday, June 16th!

Around Town

Family Fun Nights organized by the City of Hoboken, which will be held on Tuesday nights in June, July & Aug. from 7pm to 8pm.

These child centric outdoor performances will be held at the Shipyard Park, located at 13th Street & McFeeley Drive behind the King’s Supermarket.
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HFA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. For membership, upcoming events, and parenting resources please visit www.hobokenfamily.com.

If you have stories or story ideas for upcoming issues, please e-mail: hfaeditor@gmail.com.

The purpose of HFA is to improve the Hoboken Community and its way of life through the efforts of individual and family volunteers.

HFA focuses on education, parenting issues, philanthropy, children’s resources and events.

Upcoming HFA Events
All schools open house- Sept -TBD
HFA Gala- Sept. 19
Fall Swap - TBD