

YOUTH ACTIVITIES



Canajoharie-Fort Plain Elks #2621 held its second Harvest Celebration for kids. Children of all ages attended the festivities. There were pumpkins for the kids that they could decorate and take home, face painting, games and contests and drug awareness materials for all. A free lunch and snacks were also served. This event was made possible through the Elks National Foundations Promise Grant. Two of the younger children that attended are pictured decorating a pumpkin.



Watertown Lodge #496 honored five young men who achieved the distinction of Eagle Scout. The Lodge presented the Eagle Scouts with a Grand Exalted Ruler Recognition Certificate. The scouts are pictured proudly displaying their certificates with Exalted Ruler Raymond Cooley and Leading Knight Keith Anderson.



Cortland Elks Lodge #748 teamed with the Cortland Downtown Business Partnership, SUNY Cortland, Cortland High School Student Link Crew, and with the aid of an ENF Promise Grant, revived a tradition that was started in 1936; the Cortland County Halloween Parade. Over 600 people flooded the streets with over 300 participating in the parade. The parade began at the Cortland Elks Lodge, proceeded down Main Street and ended at the SUNY Cortland Alumni House. Jane Witty, Cortland Business Partnership commented, "It was better than we imagined." "We were blow away." The event featured Elroy the Elk. 16 merchants provided pre-parade trick or treating treats for everyone. The total community involvement was described as "fantastic". The Lodge is working with the Downtown Partnership and is already in the process of planning next year's event. Elroy the Elk is pictured with Cortland High School Link Students.



Elmira Lodge #62 sponsored the 2nd annual Challenger Little League Baseball Tournament. Lodge members cooked a celebration dinner for the 500 children and parents that attended the event. The Challenger Little League empowers area children with a wide range of disabilities to participate in and enjoy the American pastime.



Johnson City lodge #2821 welcomed 20 resident from the Handicap Children's Homes for a turkey dinner and presents from Santa. Pictured are Santa, Mrs. Claus and all the Elk elves who made the night great for the visiting children. PER Alicia Beck, was Santa's shopper for the event.



New York Lodge No. 1 held a "Court of Honor" to recognize four young men from Troop 336 for their accomplishment in earning Eagle Scout distinction. Anitra Butler-Chairperson (far left) and Exalted Ruler Frank Hunt PDDGER both of New York Lodge #1 were on hand to present the awards to these outstanding young Americans. Each of the scouts received an American Flag and recognition certificate from the Lodge.

Pictured at Right—Members of the Youth Committee at **Troy Lodge of Elks #141** (l to r) Walter Hughes, PER; Bud McGrath, PDDGER; Carolee Jasiewicz and Michael Caone presented 38 Student Dictionaries and Dictionary and Thesaurus to students at the Sacred Heart



Goblins, ghosts, vampires and Super Powers were seen in every spectacularly decorated corner of Alex Eligh Community Center at the Annual Halloween Bash! This year, **Newark Elks Lodge #1249** received a \$2,000.00 Promise Grant from the National Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks to be used for a youth centered community project. The Lodge members decided that half of this money would go towards the Halloween Bash and the remaining amount would be used towards the upcoming Christmas party at the AECC. Several members of the Newark Lodge pitched in with the AECC staff and volunteers in manning the Bounce House, Cotton Candy machine and Apple Bobbing booth. Face Painting, dancing to the DJ, and balloon art brought out smiles from over 380 children and 127 adults. After washing down pizza, cotton candy, donuts and pumpkin cookies with gallons of apple cider, all went home with a generous bag of goodies and lots of happy memories.