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Randolph NEWS

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No. 16 Vol. 5

www.mypaperonline.com May 2018

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Randolph Good Scout Awards Dinner Raises Money, Honors Parishioners



Pictured, from left, are Mayor Mark Forstenhausler, Cindy Novak, Tammy McConnell, Rita Clark and Father John Tarantino, Resurrection Parish's administrator. Photo by Maria Gesualdo.

By Henry M. Holden

Members of the community were honored April 11 at the annual Good Scout Awards dinner.

During the dinner program, a scholarship auction takes place to raise funds for Scouting in our under-served communities. The Scouts also honored outstanding members of the community.

Three of Resurrection Parish's parishioners, who over the years have had a continuous community outreach not just in Randolph, but throughout Morris County, were honored: Tammy McConnell, Cindy Novak, and Mark Forstenhausler.

For more than 20 years, Novak has been a bereavement minister and minister to the sick and homebound. Her bereavement outreach does not cover just Resurrection Parish but is non-denominational, ready to serve anyone who reaches out or attends the Parish Bereavement Support Group.

"I also drove the medical bus for senior citizens in Randolph," said Novak. "I took the seniors all over Morris County for doctor's appointments. I also drove the shopping bus. I got my commercial driver's license and worked in Randolph for 12

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Randolph Good Scout Awards...

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years.”

McConnell's outreach is also county-wide. Her Samaritan Ministry provides assistance to those in the parish and the extended community who are in need, as well as opportunities for parishioners of all ages to recognize and respond to those needs.

There are four annual events: a Springtime Baby Shower for mothers/caregivers and babies in need; a Back-to-School Supplies Collection for students served by local agencies; a Turkey and Thanksgiving Food Drive in November; and a Christmas Giving Tree Collection. These collections are distributed to organizations including, Birth Haven, North Porch, Head Start, Partnership for Maternal & Child Health Network, Catholic Charities, El Primer Paso, Family Promise, Jersey Battered Women's Shelter, Morris County Housing Authority, Homeless Solutions, Faith Kitchen, parishes in Wharton, Paterson, and Passaic, VFW programs, a Morris County Correctional Facility ministry for inmates, N. J. AIDS Services, Mt. Kemble Home for Women, a program for Grey-stone Psychiatric Hospital residents, and Straight & Narrow.

Representing the parish trustees was Rita Clark, who presented the award to Novak and McConnell.

Ongoing programs include: Cooking and serving hot lunches at Faith Kitchen several Fridays each month and hot dinners at Homeless Solutions twice a month, supporting Randolph's Meals on Wheels program with delivery volunteers, and collecting nonperishable items for the food pantries at Hope House and Homeless Solutions, all done under the umbrella of confidentiality.

The third honoree, Forstenhausler, the current mayor of Randolph Township, grew up in North Caldwell. He earned his Eagle Scout award in 1974. Throughout his years of scouting, and as a volunteer firefighter, Forstenhausler has always tried to give back to his community.

“When I turned 18 I became an assistant scoutmaster. Later I became a volunteer firefighter in North Caldwell for 17 years and worked my way up to assistant fire chief. At that point I got married and my wife and I moved to Randolph. The first thing I did was join the volunteer fire department here. I've spent 24 years as a volunteer firefighter in Randolph for

a total of 41 years.” In 2005 and 2006 he was the volunteer chief.

During the recent power outages, Forstenhausler was inundated with phone calls. He continued his outreach by patrolling the streets to assess the damage and reached out

to the residents to keep them informed. “The residents can sign up for reverse Swift 911 by going to the township's website,” he said. “This way if we lose power we can keep everyone updated with text messages giving them the status of the roads, etc.