



# *Smoke Signals*

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## *James and the Giant Peach*

You or your children have likely read the beloved book by Roald Dahl. Perhaps you saw the movie version from 1996. Now here is your chance to see the stage version, at a private showing for Federation families! The date is Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, at the Theatre of Western Springs (see attached flier for details). Nation Chief John Rymysza will accept reservations for the first 400 people at [kmr1961@aol.com](mailto:kmr1961@aol.com).

You don't want to miss this Federation **family** event!

## **Patch Event! Patch Event! Patch Event!**

The YMCA Men's Club's annual Christmas Tree Sale will be held at Gordon Park (right behind the old Rich Port YMCA), from November 24<sup>th</sup> through mid-December. We have assigned each tribe to a time to work at the sale, assisting buyers, loading trees, drinking cocoa, and earning a patch! Check the enclosed schedule for your tribe's assigned date.

## **The "Great Spirit" of Giving**

Will your tribe be participating in this year's **Secret Santa** program? If so, your tribal chief has already picked up the bag(s) and arranged a shopping meeting for your tribe. Heck, you may already be done shopping by now!

The Community Nurse Health Association's Secret Santa program helps bring Christmas cheer to needy families in our area by buying and presenting them with an assortment of toys, clothing, and supplies. Our Federation's contributions now constitute about 35% of the Secret Santa program!

### **When was the First Thanksgiving?**

- In 1621, featuring the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indians – Massasoit, Squanto, Miles Standish, et. al?
- In 1777, a National Day of Thanksgiving, ordered by the First Continental Congress after the Revolution?
- In 1863, to celebrate the Union Army's victory at Gettysburg?

**See reverse side for the answer.**

## Great Spirit of Giving (cont'd)

Speaking of our generosity, the final numbers are in from last year's **YMCA Giving Tree** program. Our contributions help underprivileged youth attend YMCA summer camps, where they receive moral guidance, a boost in self esteem, and positive role modeling. This year, we raised \$24,094!

Each tribe that sponsored at least two children was entered into a raffle. Congratulations to the following tribes, who will receive either a pool, skate, or rock climbing party at an area YMCA: **Shawnee, Seminole, and Mohawk Guides**, and **Sauk, Seneca, Tejas, Miami**, and **Sioux Princesses**. A special gift (and a big How How) went to the **Keewaydin Guides**, who raised \$2590 toward the total!

## Winter Events...

I believe we just finished doing the laundry from the Fall Campout, and we're already planning Winter Events!!!

**Trailblazers** will be heading to Wisconsin on the weekend of January 18-20. They will be staying at Camp Gray in Reedsburg. Plans are being made for an afternoon of skiing at nearby Cascade, and use of the waterpark facilities at the Kalahari Lodge in Wisconsin Dells. There is never a dull moment...

**Federation Family Skate** will be at the Darien Sportsplex on the afternoon of Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. We have had a lot of fun with this event in the past, and we are pleased that Nation Chief **Neil Kirby** has been able to book us at the Sportsplex. And I can *almost* guarantee that the date and time will not conflict with a Bears' playoff game...

See the enclosed flier for details.

### Thanksgiving Trivia Answer Sheet

Depending on one's point of view, any answer could be correct. After 1863, the President was to each year declare a "National Day of Thanksgiving." Eventually, it was decided that Thanksgiving should be in late fall, to pay homage to the 1621 harvest festival featuring the Pilgrims and Native Americans.

(Source: [americanhistory.about.com/library/blthanksgiving](http://americanhistory.about.com/library/blthanksgiving))



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!**