

Friends of Randolph Trails Newsletter

January 2021

Thank you for participating in Friends of Randolph Trails. We are in the depths of winter but many folks in Randolph are on the trails. We had a good snow early in December and that resulted in a lot of cross-country skiing and snow shoeing. In this issue we talk about the newest park in Randolph, the Halloween Riddle Run and a few trail related projects that are being executed by Randolph teenagers. Please remember to bring a mask with you when you are on the trails and try to respect other peoples' space.

Veterans Park Opens with Dedication Ceremony

Randolph Township held a dedication ceremony for our newest community park - Veterans Community Park on Saturday, October 17. The day featured live entertainment and presentations by several community groups. Following the park dedication and unveiling of the dedication stone, there was a ceremonial burying of the Randolph Township time capsule, and a bench dedication to Jack Sassaman by VFW Post 7333. Friends of Randolph Trails had a table as well as the Randolph Historical Society. The RHS offered some history of the location and information about the Randolph Museum. The Randolph Community Garden had participants there to talk about their program as well.

Veterans Community Park was conceived during the 2016 Parks Master Plan, as a location to hold community events and to offer amenities that were either not available in other parks or warranted additional facilities. Included in its features are:

- 168 Bed Community Garden
- Bandshell with event lawn for hosting community events
- Pavilion and grills for picnic rentals
- Gazebo for small group gatherings
- Permanently installed, fenced pickleball courts
- Restroom and maintenance facility
- Lighted, paved 1/4 mile walking path around event lawn
- Paved 1/3 mile path connecting to Randolph Trails system and Patriot's Path
- Paved connecting path to Trout Brook

Halloween Riddle Run

With the cancelation of Randolph's Tunk or Treat, our Recreation department wanted to create a fun way for families with small children to enjoy the park with a Halloween theme.

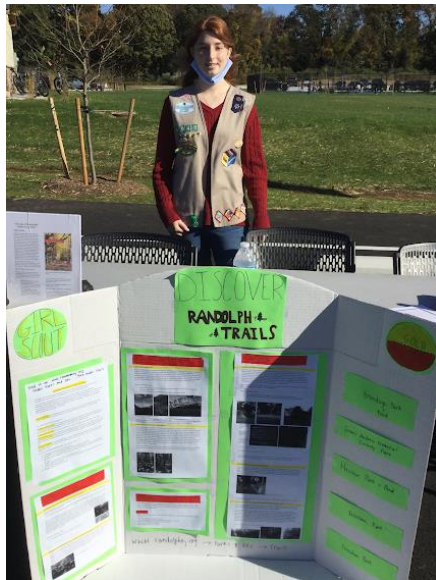


Julian Button and his grandmother "Mema", aka Kathy Crowley Button Sheehy work to solve the riddle.

The Halloween Riddle Run was held from October 19 to October 26, 2020 in Brundage Park. Kids were invited to find all of the decorated posts on the trail at Brundage Park and look for the letter located on the post; there were 16 posts in all. Once they had collected all of the letters, they could unscramble the phrase and deliver their answer to community center on Calais Road to receive a prize. It is estimated that as many as 150 people participated with around 80 completed forms handed in.

High School Students Use Trails For Important Projects

Juliana Puttre is a Randolph resident currently in her Junior year at The Morris County School of Technology. For her gold project for Girl Scouts she devised a project that focuses on making the parks and trails easier to enjoy and navigate.



Juliana Puttre displays her Gold Project at Veteran's Park dedication ceremony

Juliana has created summaries for each park and trail in Randolph. Her summaries

describe what kind of experience trail walkers can get out of each place, and how they can get the most out of their outings. Fun facts, important things to keep in mind, and a brief history are also included for each trail/park. Basic directions explain which intersections people should take while on the trails to stay on the correct path. Juliana's goal is to make the trail experience easier so people can get more enjoyment out of use of the trail system.

Brendan Stulak is a Randolph resident and a junior at Morris County School of Technology and a life scout. For his eagle scout project Brendan is building trail bulletin boards which will contain important trail information. These new boards will have a map of your current location along with some up-to-date information on the specific trail you are on. When Brendan approached the Trails Advisory Committee, he told us he thought the trails needed more and better signs to help direct people. He has been a Boy Scout for 6 years and wants to use his Eagle Scout project to help better his (our) community.

Join us at our next meeting

Our next Trails Advisory Meeting will be held February 17 at 7:00 pm. At this point in time, it scheduled to be a zoom meeting. You are welcome to attend.

In the meantime, if you have suggestions, questions, concerns or just want to provide some feedback, please don't hesitate to contact the Randolph Trails Advisory Committee at trails@randolphnj.org. Thanks for your interest and support.

Phil Sheehy
Randolph Trails Committee