

A Message from Superintendent Charlie Cardillo

Christmas came a week early in Manhasset when, on this past Tuesday night, a little ten year old boy was found after having been missing for three hours in the late afternoon/early evening. It was incredibly gratifying to see our community rally when word got out that the boy could not be located. This situation touched so many people that members of the community immediately began walking up and down neighborhood blocks with flashlights in their hands, calling the child's name and searching backyards and wooded areas on this cold evening. The prompt response by the police and their conspicuous presence throughout the Strathmore-Vanderbilt neighborhood over the course of this (what seemed like endless) period of time, alerted everyone of the seriousness of the matter.

As people gathered in the driveway of a neighbor where the little boy was finally found, it was quite an emotional moment watching his mother hug her young child. There were tears of joy on many peoples' faces knowing that he would be returning to his home and the search mission was to be called off by the police. We were all relieved, especially knowing that similar stories around our country have not always concluded with such a positive outcome.

The holiday season provides us all with the opportunity to slow down and reflect. All too often we take for granted various aspects of our daily lives including those we love the most—our families. Over the next few days, during some quiet moments, please take the time to hug the people who are most meaningful in your life and tell them how much you love them.

On Christmas day, the Cardillo family will continue its tradition of hosting a very large gathering (forty plus) of family and close friends. All six of our sons will be home celebrating Christmas with us. As we exchange and open gifts with our family, my thoughts will drift to a week ago where the greatest gift had already been given – the gift of a little ten year old boy's being found.

For those celebrating Christmas, may you all enjoy a very special day. For all our Manhasset residents, Happy New Year and a wish that 2014 will be a peaceful, safe and healthy one for you and each member of your family.