

FRANKLIN SERVES UP A SOUPER TIME AT THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY



Bob Knoke, owner of Corner Café & Grill, winner of the 2nd annual Franklin Township Souper Bowl Challenge.

Parents brought their kids. Middlebush Volunteer Fire Department brought Santa. We brought the hot chocolate and, of course, the tree. And the restaurants of Franklin Township brought their very best soup. At the end of the evening, however, one restaurant stood out above the others at the Second Annual Souper Bowl Challenge at the Franklin Township Tree Lighting Ceremony. Corner Café & Grill, located at 1695 Amwell Road in Somerset, took home the title of Souper Bowl Challenge winner for the second year in a row!

The Souper Bowl Challenge, a cook-off between some of Franklin's favorite eateries, has been held for the last two years at the Franklin Township Municipal Complex in conjunction with the annual Franklin Township Tree Lighting Ceremony. Corner Café & Grill, O'Connor's Beef and Chowder House, New Road School, and Café Amici donated soups, chowders, bisques and more for the free tasting. The winner was selected by those in attendance. The previous year's challenge came down to the very last vote with Corner Café & Grill and O'Connor's Beef 'n Chowder House tying for first.



Mayor Brian Levine kicks off the Tree Lighting festivities with help from Councilwomen Kimberly Francois and Shirley Eberle.



Franklin Township employees get to spend a little time with Santa during the 2009 Tree Lighting.

This wonderful community event also served as a kick off for the Angel Giving Tree Campaign. Residents were asked to donate non-perishable food items to the Franklin Township Food Bank as well as items to less fortunate Franklin families and U.S. troops. Troop donations were handled by Operation Jersey Cares while items for the families were handled by the Franklin Township Department of Community Resource and Services.

Residents were treated to performances by the Franklin High School Madrigals, singers from the Praise Korean Presbyterian Church Youth Choir, and Franklin High School student Sharlene Laud accompanied by Mary Jane Lojewski.