

neighbor to neighbor

WELCOME to NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR, which is written and photographed by our readers. We are looking for contributions from your club, your school, your family. Your second-grade play, your Cub Scout pack's pinewood derby, your youth sports team awards — send it to Neighbor to Neighbor. It can be upcoming events or your coverage of a local event. Please keep it short, 200 to 300 words or less, and just the facts, folks. (Opinions are for the editorial page.) Send text and color jpeg photos to neighbors@ctpost.com or mail prints and write-ups to:
Neighbor to Neighbor News Department
The Connecticut Post
410 State St.,
Bridgeport CT 06604

Sweet 'Taste for Success'

Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield County's annual fundraising event, "A Taste For Success," is set for Nov. 10, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Mitchells, 870 Post Road East, Westport.

"We will showcase our five programs which provide much-needed services to women and youth on their path to self-sufficiency," says Mary Ann Hardy, event co-chair.

Throughout the night, participants will have a chance to speak to those directly involved in the programs and get a better understanding of the organization as a whole.

"Our goal is to provide interactive

experiences so people come away with a deeper understanding of the value of our programs, while helping to raise much-needed funds," says Darryl Manning, executive director.

The evening will also include hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. Local musicians Chris Coogan, Scarlett Lee Moore, Frank Fields, Christine Campbell and Kevin Reid will perform.

For tickets and sponsorship information, call 333-6505, ext. 14, or visit www.dressforsuccess.org/midfairfieldcounty.

Dress for Success is a not-for-profit organization that helps women in need obtain jobs and build careers.

SHE'S A CUT ABOVE



Amanda Davis, a second-grade student at St. Ann School in Milford, recently decided to donate her 12-inch mane of hair after participating in a Relay for Life event and hearing about the Wigs for Kids program. Above, family friend and hair designer Jose Ortiz gives Amanda a brand new 'do. Amanda's mom and dad, MaryJo and Matthew, and big sister Anna, 8, are so proud of her.

A PASSION FOR CHILDREN



Byron and Kelly Campbell of Trumbull received an Angels in Adoption Award in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 20. From left are Byron Campbell, U.S. Rep. Jim Oberstar, D-Minn., U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., Kelly Campbell and U.S. Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho. The couple's son, Jonathan Campbell, is holding the award.

Trumbull couple receives national adoption award

Community-centered support group extends reach to more than 100 households

Byron and Kelly Campbell of Trumbull are the adoptive parents of two sons from Guatemala and a daughter from Connecticut. Six years ago, realizing there was something missing from the adoption experience, the couple founded a community-centered Adoption Network Group with the support of the Black Rock Congregational Church in Fairfield.

Through monthly meetings, the group offers waiting parents, adoptive parents or those seeking information about adoption the opportunity to meet other adoptive families, professionals and adoption experts. Since the year 2000, the group has provided support, counseling and advocacy to more than 100 households.

This year, Byron and Kelly have

extended their passion for children by partnering Adoption Network Group with the state Department of Children and Families.

They hope not only to meet the physical needs of children in DCF care, but also to bring a greater awareness about the need for foster families and adoption to the community.

In recognition of their efforts, the couple was nominated for the 2006 Angels in Adoption award by Sen. Joseph Lieberman. Angels in Adoption is a program within the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. It provides an opportunity for Congressmen and women to honor those who have enriched the lives of foster children and orphans.

Outstanding! Prep student attends summit

Riley Flanagan-Arguelles, a student at Fairfield College Preparatory School, joined a select group of students representing their schools, communities and states as student leaders at the People to



RILEY FLANAGAN-ARGUELLES

People Leadership Summit at Stanford University this past August. Accepted students must meet rigorous academic and leadership requirements. Flanagan-

Arguelles was nominated and accepted based on outstanding scholastic merit, civic involvement and leadership potential. The program brings the students together to focus on leadership, team building, community service, college admissions and professional aspirations. They work on an action plan to make a difference in their communities, develop leadership skills and build their college resumes, while earning academic or service-learning credit.

The program was founded in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to fulfill his vision for fostering world citizenship.

Knights have new officers

Tinto council No. 47 Knights of Columbus recently installed its new slate of officers for the year 2006-'07. Installing officers were Ray Potkay, district deputy, and Terry Morgan, state admissions chairman. New officers include: Tom Gallagher, grand knight; Dave Conroy, deputy grand knight; Larry Yergeo, chancellor; Eden Weiss, recorder; George Hendrics, financial secretary; Dave Brown, treasurer; Bob Barette, lecturer; Peter Ortolivia, warden; the Rev. James Cronin, chaplain; Mike Ward, inside guard; and Roger Bauer, outside guard. Installing officers were Ray Potkay, district deputy and Terry Morgan, state admissions chairman.

The Father Francis Breen Assembly Fourth Degree officers for 2006-'07 are: John Meuser, faithful navigator; Rudy Serini, captain; Peter Phelan, admiral; Dave Conroy, pilot; Mike Kalakay, comptroller; Jim Rutledge, scribe; Bob Lessard, purser; Vic Spata, inner sentinel; Ray Potkay, outer sentinel; Tom Gallagher, first year trustee; John Lawless, second year trustee; and Al Boudreau, third year trustee. Installing officer was John McKeone, state master.

COME ON & 'RAKE THY NEIGHBOR'

Crossroads Community Church in Trumbull hosts its third-annual "Rake Thy Neighbor" event Saturday. On that day, teams of volunteers will fan out through the town to rake leaves and clean up the yards of the elderly and disabled. In the past two years, more than 70 volunteers have turned out to help tidy up the yards of 14 families. The church works with Trumbull Social Services to identify individuals in the community who can benefit most from the service.

Teams will go out in two shifts, the first from 10 a.m. to noon and the second from 1 to 3 p.m. Volunteers can be any age; helpers younger than 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Interested volunteers should e-mail EdwardGillespie@hotmail.com by today.

FINDING THEIR WAY



A New Way of Life is a social group for widowed men and women of all ages. Dinners, trips and other activities are planned nearly every month. Above, some members gather for a photo on a recent trip to Lake George. Getting out and being together socially is a support for members. The grief process can be long, and new friends help ease the time together. Upcoming events include a wine-tasting social Sunday at Jones Family Farms in Shelton, followed by dinner at Marisa's restaurant in Trumbull. The group is also planning a holiday party Dec. 9 at the Stone Barn in Monroe. For details, call Carolyn at 375-3520 or John at 378-4669.

'HEARTS FOR PAT' BENEFIT SATURDAY

The untimely passing of Monroe native and Trumbull resident Patrick Bresnahan forever silenced the enthusiastic spirit of a dedicated father, husband and musician. But his recent death from an undiagnosed cardiac condition is inspiring friends, family members and even total strangers who shared Pat's love for music to come together in the spirit of tribute and activism.

On Saturday, two days before what would have been his 43rd birthday, the Last Drop Coffee Shop in Monroe will host "Hearts for Pat," an acoustic open mic and jam-style concert benefit to raise funds for the American Heart Association. The event will also promote awareness, in the hope of inspiring those with family histories to seek diagnosis and treatment of possible heart and related conditions, according to event organizer John Voket.

"Pat and his family were dear friends of mine for many years," Voket said. "As a fellow musician, I believe if any of his friends suffered such an unexpected and untimely passing, he would be the first one banging at the door with his

guitar in hand looking for some way to bring cheer to an otherwise sad occasion with his music and his lively personality."

Pat's sister, Beth McGuire of Derby, said that while the loss of her older brother was a terrible shock, she agrees that he would have wanted some positive message to result. And the addition of jam-style music to mix with a message is in keeping with his passion and personality.

"Whether it was through his own performances or his lifelong support of musicians who promote an important cause, raising awareness through music was something that was always very close to my brother's heart," she said.

Any musician or friend interested in paying tribute to Patrick is welcome to step up to the microphone. The event will also feature literature and information from the American Heart Association.

"Hearts For Pat" will take place at Last Drop Coffee Shop, at the intersection of Routes 25 and 59, 435 Main St., Monroe, Saturday, from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. For details, call 509-2246.

READY FOR A NEW YEAR



The Milford Garden Club recently elected its new slate of officers. Form left are Joan Crimmins, recording secretary; Barbara O'Connor, vice president; Marilyn Wardell, president; and Ada Lucke, corresponding secretary. Kyle Eberts, treasurer, is not pictured. The celebrates its 80th anniversary this year, with plays under way for a special luncheon in June.

WON'T YOU TAKE ME HOME?

Diago, a beautiful, black and white, medium-haired, male, neutered feline, is approximately 3 to 4 years old, extremely affectionate, lovable, friendly and good with everyone.

Diago gets along fine with mellow dogs that like cats and pretty much prefers to be the only cat in the home. He is a total lap cat, loves attention and has so much love to give back.

Interested? Call Pet Protectors at 330-0255 or visit www.petprotectorsonline.com.



Diago