

neighbor to neighbor



Distinguished Service Award winners Ann (seated) and Al Treidel with Betsi Shays, wife of U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays, R-4.

Republicans pay tribute to Easton couple

The Easton Republican Town Committee honored Ann and Al Treidel on Sept. 29 at its annual dinner and auction at 707 on Main in Monroe.

Approximately 105 Easton residents paid tribute as the Treidels were awarded the ERTC Distinguished Service Award for 2006. Joining them in acknowledging the Treidels were Helen Keller Middle School Principal Joan Parker and Marie Mas, director of educational curriculum. Also in attendance were Betsi Shays (wife of U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays, R-4), state Sen. John McKinney and state Rep. John Stripp.

"Loyal and hardworking Republicans for sure, but that is just one of the many good reasons we bestow upon Ann and Al Treidel the ERTC Distinguished Service Award for 2006. Commitment to family, synagogue, town and country has long been their hallmark over the last 28 years in Easton," said Hugh Barry, committee chair.

Along with raising three daughters, the Treidels have maintained active community lives while in Easton. Al is presently a member of the Easton Board of Education. He served as the chairman of the ERTC for eight years, and, before that, was vice-chairman for eight years. Ann worked behind the scenes in a variety of informal ways.

"Their lifelong commitment to education has helped make the Easton school system one of the most admired in Connecticut," said Betsi Shays, filling in for her husband as the keynote speaker.

In recognition of Ann and Al's contributions, First Selectman Bill Kupinse declared Sept. 29 to be "Treidel Day."

Autumn Boutique set for Holland Hill School

Holland Hill School's Autumn Boutique is set for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 11 in the school's all-purpose room and gymnasium.

More than 30 vendors will be on hand selling a large array of items: handmade jewelry; beautiful belts; knitted handbags; artistic pieces; photography services; handmade soaps; fleecewear; doll clothes to fit American Girl dolls; totes; bags; accessories; stationery; handmade items; floral arrangements; portrait charm jewelry; and artists for hire. Businesses represented include Tupperware, Mary Kay, Southern Living at Home, Arbonne International, Angela Moore, Longaberger Baskets, Tastefully Simple, Silpada Jewelry and Galaxy Cookie. Goodies for purchase will include freshly-popped kettle corn, homemade chocolates and gourmet hot dogs.

The event also features Creative Castle, which will help little ones try their hand at some crafts, and several door prizes.

The school is located at 105 Meadowcroft Road, Fairfield.



Trumbull special needs playground gets support

Tom Castelot, president and CEO of Soundview Media of Bridgeport, and Dianne Auger, chair of Soundview Media, accept a recognition plaque for their support of the Trumbull Early Childhood Education Center's special needs playground fund. The new playground, accessible to all children regardless of their abilities or disabilities, is located on the campus of Middlebrook School in Trumbull. It was designed by volunteer professionals, including occupational and physical therapists, special education teachers and parents.

YMCA project to combat obesity, chronic diseases

The Central Connecticut Coast YMCA Association has been selected to join the YMCA Activate America: Pioneering Healthier Communities project — a major component of the YMCA's national effort to promote healthy living among millions of Americans.

Dijuana Lewis, president/CEO of Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield — Northeast Region, chair of the YMCA's Activate America committee and a member of the YMCA corporate board said, "We are delighted to be named a Pioneering Healthier Communities YMCA and be recognized for our YMCA's commitment to improving the health of youth in our region. Through this initiative we will expand our work with local community leaders concerned about issues of nutrition, preventative health and obesity among our region's youth."

The project was developed with advice and assistance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, whose input is helping to build an infrastructure for replicating model programs and approaches to develop healthy communities nationwide. A number of other



groups, including the Association of State and Territorial Chronic Disease Program Directors; the American Public Health Association; the President's Council on Fitness & Sport; America on the Move; and affiliates of the American Hospital Association of Community Health Improvement and Health Research &

Educational Trust are also working with the YMCAs in this effort. The PepsiCo Foundation, Kimberly-Clark and Kellogg Co. are sponsors.

At a press conference Sept. 27, Speaker of the House James Amann and President of the Senate Don Williams announced the adoption of an Activate Connecticut Initiative.

Sen. Eileen M. Daily, chair, Finance, Revenue and Bonding committee; Sen. James Amann, speaker of the house; and Sen. Edward Meyer, chair, Select Committee on Children, with representatives from the Bridge Academy of Bridgeport; Robert Doss, teacher; and students Mikhail Gittens, Daqun Allen, Shamere Holmes, Michelle Hunt and Yolanda Clark.

Gifts from the heart



Since Thanksgiving of last year, Daisy Taylor, her husband, Pervis Taylor, and close family members have been feeding the homeless or less fortunate in the East End of Bridgeport on the holidays.

Daisy has been blessed with a good life and insists on giving back to those not so fortunate in her community. She says, "I will stop when my heart does," and then of course her daughters will carry on the tradition.

Daisy continued her generosity last Christmas and Easter, and plans to continue the tradition. She serves a diverse choice of foods, mostly cooked by

her, with offerings including Spanish rice, ziti, ham, turkey, meatballs, chicken, macaroni and cheese, yams and more — a mix of Hispanic, American, Italian and soul foods to reflect the diversity in her community.

While she and her family stand out in front of her house serving food, like the postal service, come rain, sleet, hail, or snow, they also pass out new or donated gloves and hats.

Once the last of the food has been served and the miscellaneous items have been given away, the family gathers at Daisy's house for their own family dinner.



A group of Monroe Elementary School students were treated to breakfast and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Monroe Turnpike McDonald's recently.

UP TO THE CHALLENGE

Monroe students recognized for summer reading efforts

Fourteen students from Monroe Elementary School were treated to a special healthy breakfast and a tour of the Monroe Turnpike McDonald's in recognition of their efforts in a summer reading challenge. The students were randomly selected from a group that met the goal of reading at least 60 minutes each week throughout the summer. One winner from each classroom of grades one through four was chosen. The breakfast has

become an annual event for the school. The restaurant's owner, David Hawthorne, has provided a breakfast and tour for the students for years. This year's event was also attended by Debra Kovachi, school principal; and reading teachers Sharon McCauley, Elisa Rubis, Bev Kovachik and Ruth Lubbers.

"The kids had a wonderful time," said McCauley, school reading teacher. "Mr. Hawthorne took the children's food

orders and even served them at their seats!" she said.

Following breakfast, the students were treated to a "behind the scenes" tour where employees demonstrated what they do on the job.

"Thank you to all of the children who participated in the summer reading challenge," said Kovachi. "A special thanks, also, to Mr. Hawthorne of McDonald's for making this celebration memorable," she said.



Breast cancer event

Above, from left, are members of Southwest Community Center's OB/GYN department: Dr. Raul Perez, Catherine Nucera, Alisha Nappi, physician assistant Alicia Lopez, Wyinee Figueroa and Ana Martinez. On Oct. 17, staff at the facility provided more than 100 free breast cancer examinations during the annual event in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The center is located at 510 Clinton Ave., Bridgeport.

The department provides prenatal care, family planning, pap smears, cancer screenings, mammography/ultrasound and STD screenings.

Trumbull Community Women fundraiser is Saturday

Trumbull Community Women hosts its annual fundraising event on Saturday at 7 p.m. at Liedle's Catering in Stratford. The group, in conjunction with Treehouse Productions, will present "An Evening of Comedy and Magic." The event begins with a cocktail hour featuring hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, followed by a three-course dinner.

Guests will be entertained by strolling magicians and comedians performing throughout the evening. There will be a display of auction items, and both box and silent auctions.

Net proceeds will go to the many service projects the organization has planned throughout the year, as well as donations and high school scholarships.

For tickets and details, call Michele Slade at 268-1540 or Loretta Chory at 452-1534. Tickets, \$55 in advance and \$65 at the door, can also be purchased from any member. Seating is limited and tables are arranged in order of purchase.

For information on the group, visit www.trumbullcommunitywomen.org. Address questions to info@trumbullcommunitywomen.org.

OUT & ABOUT



On Sept. 30, members of the Ansonia Pack 5 Cub Scouts enjoyed an outing at Sleeping Giant State Park in Hamden. The Scouts took part in a nature hike led by Cubmaster Kevin Brown, followed by a picnic lunch and activities. Cub Scouts in attendance included: James Amato, Ryan Amato, Scott Brissette, Gabriel Brown, Troy Brown, Timothy Chieppo, Christian D'Amico, Connor D'Amico, Andrew Devine, Joshua Gokey, Austin Goncalo, Ian Goncalo, Zachary Griffith, Deonte Jett, Chris Signorile, and Joseph Szczyzyk. For information on joining Pack 5, call the Housatonic Council at 734-3329.