

Local Briefs

Fair donates to organizations

More than \$33,000 of the proceeds from last year's New Jersey State Fair/Sussex County Farm & Horse Show were donated to 28 local non-profit organizations this week.

Since 1985, the fair has given a total of \$540,000 to 59 different organizations, with a majority, \$147,087, going to social service organizations.

The following organizations received donations Wednesday:

Hospitals: Newton Memorial Hospital Foundation and Saint Claire's Hospital in Sussex Borough.

Fire/Rescue: Blue Ridge Rescue Squad, Branchville Fire Department, Lafayette Township Fire Department and the Sussex County chapter of the American Red Cross.

4-H: Sussex County 4-H Foundation

Social Services: Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Sussex County, Birth Haven, Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children, Domestic Abuse Services, Ginnie's House, Literacy Volunteers of Sussex County, People Help of Sussex County, Project Self-Sufficiency, SCARC Foundation, Sussex County Center for Prevention and Counseling, Sussex County Foundation for Special Needs, Sussex County Help Line, Sussex County Homestead Life Enrichment Foundation, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Manna House and United Way of Sussex County.

Youth: Branchville Youth Recreation Group, Sussex County Teen Arts Council and Wallkill Valley Regional High School's Future Business Leaders of America.

Miscellaneous: Frankford Township Park Commission and the Sussex-Warren Arts Foundation.

Local school to appear on TV

TRENTON — Frelinghuysen Township Elementary School will be featured on the television show "Classroom Close-up, NJ" on Saturday at 7 a.m. on New Jersey Network Public Television. The school converts into the White House for an inaugural ball for dozens of past presidents and First Ladies. The children step back into history to research past elections and past wars for this schoolwide event.

Library adds new database

The Sussex County Library has added a new poetry database for all branches. The Columbia Granger's World of Poetry will be available on all computers at the main library and all Sussex County library branches. Access requires a library card bar code for access. For more information, call or stop by a library branch.

Highlands law to be discussed

A forest management program will highlight the effect of the Highlands legislation on woodlot owners. The Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension of Sussex County is sponsoring the Annual Spring Forest Management and Stewardship program on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the administration building, Sussex County Fairgrounds, Plains Road, Augusta. The program is intended for farmers, woodlot owners and anyone interested in forest management. To register, call Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension of Sussex County at 973-948-3040 by Wednesday.

Stanhope holds special meetings

STANHOPE — The mayor and council of Stanhope will hold special meetings on Tuesday, May 3 and Tuesday, May 24 at 8 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 77 Main St.

The purpose of these meetings is to discuss the defeated school budget and to take action on a Bond Anticipation Note resolution.

The previously scheduled agenda and work session meetings will be conducted during these special meetings. Action will be taken.

Sidewalk sale will fund trip

NEWTON — Halsted Middle School will be hosting a back yard/sidewalk sale on May 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Merriam Avenue School, 81 Merriam Ave. Rain date is May 21.

Crafts and attic to cellar items welcome. No drop off donations accepted. To reserve a sidewalk space at \$10 each, or for additional information, contact Karen Kitchel at 973-383-3235.

All funds raised are going toward the class of 2007's class trip.

Out of heartbreak comes hope

By JEANETTE CALO
Herald Staff Writer

Through horse races, an art show and the 5K run, the Robie Foundation has made great strides in raising awareness of persistent Patent Ductus Arteriosus, a condition affecting one in 2,000 children.

The foundation was established by Debra and Robert Masterson in memory of their son Robie, who passed away suddenly from complications of PDA 15 days before his fourth birthday on Nov. 4.

In its few months of existence, the Robie Foundation has already raised more than \$30,000 — money the Mastersons hope to use to keep other parents from losing their children to PDA.

Sixty people, wearing Robie Foundation shirts donated by Real Estate Consultants in Sparta, ran or walked for the foundation in Saturday's Main Street 5K Run in Sparta.

While proceeds from their race entries went to Pass it Along, the race beneficiary, supporters raised more than \$7,500 in pledges for the foundation, said Kathleen Gagg, a real estate agent who ran for the foundation. After several months of involvement in the foundation, Gagg discovered in February that her daughter Brienne, 9, also had PDA, which was surgically corrected at Colombia Presbyterian Medical Center.

"If it hadn't been for the Mastersons, I wouldn't have been as proactive in my daughter's diagnosis as I was," Gagg said.

But the 5K was just one drop in the bucket for the foundation.

On April 9, the foundation held "A Night at the Races" at the Pegasus Restaurant overlooking the Meadowlands Race Track, raising in excess of \$20,000.

More than 180 people attended, including John Sterling, announcer for the New York Yankees. Sterling held a special auction of items autographed by Jose Posada, Bernie Williams, Derek Jeter, Hedeki Matsui and Joe Torre.

Pupils at the Hunter School in Ogdensburg, the preschool that Robie had attended, raised \$3,200 at an art show held to benefit the foundation. Pat Kane, owner of the school, rented the Ogdensburg firehouse and displayed the artwork of 70 preschoolers in frames donated by Alish's Paint Store in Sparta. Parents attended the "art gallery," naming the price they wanted to pay for their children's works of art.

The Mastersons plan to use the funds raised to publish educational books about PDA,

including a children's storybook explaining the condition and an informational booklet for parents whose children are diagnosed with the condition, Debra Masterson said.

The books should be printed within the next two to three months, she said.

Every child is born with a patent (or open) ductus arteriosus, a blood vessel connecting the two large arteries of the heart to allow blood to flow to the lungs and the placenta, which usually closes within 24 hours after birth.

If the ductus remains open, the child is diagnosed with PDA, also known as a heart murmur because of the extra sound made when the blood squirts through the opening of the PDA into the lungs, according to Dr. Robert Sommer, associate professor of pediatrics at the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York.

The condition is especially dangerous when a child has other complications, Masterson said. Robie suffered from seizures, which put too much pressure on his heart.

"So many children who have it could live their whole lives without a problems, but when they have one or two complications,



Photo by Robert Yaskovic/NJH

Grace and Sophia Masterson hold a picture of their brother Robie, for whom The Robie Foundation was started.

there is a risk," she said.

A goal of the Robie Foundation is to have children get routine echocardiograms, an image of the heart produced by ultrasonography,

in order to detect any heart defects, Masterson said.

"We want to encourage baseline echocardiograms, much like women are encouraged to get baseline mammograms," she

said.

Masterson and Gagg will discuss the mission of the foundation on Chris DeBello's morning show "Issues and Ideas," broadcasted on WSUS (102.3 FM) on



Event Coordinator for The Robie Foundation, Kathleen Gagg hugs Sophia Masterson, sister of Robie Masterson. Gagg ran for Robie during the Sparta 5K run.

Always caring, always sharing Sussex County Homestead honors volunteers



Photo by Robert Yaskovic/NJH

Rose Vesper, right, president of the Homestead Auxiliary, has a laugh while Mary Lou Schnurr, left, administrator for the Homestead, addresses the volunteers at the luncheon given in their honor, recently.

Peters Valley Craft Center
OPEN HOUSE
May 1st

Summer Workshops:
Fibers
Woodworking
Photography
Blacksmithing
Fine Metals
Special Topics
Ceramics

Visit us online or call for a catalog.
Layton, NJ (973)948-5200
www.petersvalley.org

**BLAIRSTOWN RESIDENTS
PUBLIC NOTICE
OPEN SPACE**

The Blairstown Open Space Committee is seeking funding from the Warren County Municipal and Charitable Conservancy Trust to partner with Green Acres and the Township in purchasing a 62 acre parcel along Route 94. The public is invited to attend the Township Committee's meeting on Wednesday, May 11, 2005 at 7:30 PM at the Community Hall, 33 East Avenue. Public input on this project is required as part of the application process.

Alfred G. Handy, Jr., Mayor
Joel McGreen, Chairman
Open Space Committee



Photo by Robert Yaskovic/NJH

Bill O'Neal, a volunteer at the Sussex County Homestead claps during the annual luncheon held for those who donate their time for the residents of the facility. O'Neal has been a member of the Sunshine Singers, who entertain the residents, for 10 years.

HARDWICK TOWNSHIP
CLEAN-UP WEEK 2005

Please take notice of the following rules and regulations for the

***SITE:** Spring Valley Road (Road Dept. Yard)

***RULES & REGULATIONS**
NOTE: ***Proof of residency must be presented at disposal site before dumping (auto registration, tax bill, telephone bill, etc.)

Tires will be accepted at the dump site
No tires larger than 16 inches will be accepted
No tires with rims or fee will double
FEE:
Up to 15 inches - \$3.00 each
16 inches - \$4.00 each

ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP PROGRAM RESIDENTS ONLY WILL BE ALLOWED TO DISCARD ITEMS AT THE SPRING VALLEY DISPOSAL SITE ON:

Monday	May 9, 2005	8am - 3pm
Tuesday	May 10, 2005	8am - 3pm
Wednesday	May 11, 2005	8am - 3pm
Thursday	May 12, 2005	8am - 7pm
Friday	May 13, 2005	8am - 7pm
Saturday	May 14, 2005	8am - 4pm

NO SUNDAY HOURS

- No Commercial Garbage
- No Trucks larger than a pickup allowed
- Maximum two loads per household

As in the past no commercial material, household garbage, hazardous material, tree stumps or dirt. Refrigerators, freezers or air-conditioners will be accepted only with a certification that the freon has been removed. Lawnmowers, bicycles and any other metal trash must be free of oil, gas, tires, plastic and other non-metallic materials.
Senior Citizens/handicapped persons, please call the township garage in advance to arrange for pickup. Telephone number 908-362-8471 leave message on answering machine.
Your Cooperation will be appreciated. By order of the Mayor and Township Committee,
Judith M. Fisher, RMC, Township Clerk