

COMMUNITY

The Hour

Pasacreta Park to receive a botanical facelift

WESTPORT

One of Westport's most recognizable parks on the Saugatuck River will receive a sprucing up in early October.

Pasacreta Park on Riverside Avenue honors the memory of Capt. Eugene Pasacreta, a much-revered member of the Westport police force who died at the age of 50 in 1976.

A bronze plaque set on a granite block that contains the words "Our Friend Our Brother Our Keeper of the Peace Blessed Are the Peacemakers for They Shall Be Called the Sons of God" sits in the center of the park.

On Oct. 7, 20 members of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association will plant approximately 13 small trees, 150 low growing shrubs as well as grass and flowers. CNLA nurseries will donate plants and labor as part of the annual PlantConnecticut Program. The project was awarded to Westport's Pasacreta Park based on a proposal submitted to the CNLA board of directors by Wendy Crowther of the Westport's Parks & Recreation Commission.

"I figured it was worth taking a crack at applying for the Plant-Connecticut program because collaborative projects seem to be the best way these days to make things happen in Westport," she said.

Darryl Newman of Planters Choice Nursery in Newtown and Tony Palmer of T. Palmer Landscaping Company in Westport will coordinate the project with the Parks & Recreation Department.

The road running past the park recently was renamed Fallen Heroes Memorial Highway. Though Crowther knew nothing about the plan to rename the road, she now speculates that there must have been some interesting synergy at work.

"The park is named after one of Westport's fallen heroes," she said. "How perfect is that?"

Though Pasacreta, who joined the police department in 1953, didn't die in the line of duty, he is remembered for his contributions to the community and to the Westport police force. He was a member of the board of trustees of the Westport public library and a member of the Alcohol Guidance Council. Born and raised in Westport, he was a graduate of Staples High School. He was a graduate of the University of Bridgeport and was studying for a master's degree in psychology at the time of his death.

Crowther and Westport Parks & Recreation Director Stuart McCarthy contacted the Westport Police Benevolent Association. The PBA agreed to donate funds to purchase a flag and a solar light for the flagpole.

A rededication ceremony will be held after work is completed.



Contributed photo

Preparing for the Norwalk Education Foundation's Fall Taste for Education on Oct. 15 at Aitoro are, from left, David Smith, master of ceremonies; Gopinath Nair, Coromandel; Dino Sforza, Via Sforza Trattoria; Bill Kaliff, Festivities, the art of celebrating; RuthAnn Walsh, director, Corporate Citizenship, Pepperidge Farm; Bob Montanari, Brewhouse Restaurant; Janet Aitoro, event sponsor; Lou Montanari, Brewhouse Restaurant; Lauren Rosato, president NEF; Dan Montanari, Brewhouse Restaurant and Tony Aitoro, event sponsor.

Guests to sample cuisine from around world while helping Norwalk Education Foundation

NORWALK

Local restaurants may be in the spotlight but Norwalk's children will be the winners at Norwalk Education Foundation's annual Fall Taste for Education event from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 15 at Aitoro, 401 Westport Ave.

The event, sponsored by Pepperidge Farm, will allow guests to sample cuisine from around the world provided by six area restaurants, Brasitas, The Brewhouse, Coromandel, Little Tokyo, Festivities — The Art of Celebrating, and Via Sforza Trattoria.

Proceeds from the evening

will support the Norwalk Education Foundation's programs at 19 public schools in Norwalk.

Special desserts will be provided by Norwalk's middle school children with the assistance of the Norwalk Community College Culinary Arts Department. Brescome & Barton, Diageo, and Fountainhead Wines are donating the beverages.

There also will be an auction featuring such items as a hot air balloon ride, a Jets collectible football signed by all team members and a week in a Vermont ski house.

Ruthann Walsh, Director of Corporate Citizenship for

Pepperidge Farm, said that the company has a long history of community involvement especially when it comes to children's programs.

The Norwalk Education Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization that works to improve education for Norwalk schoolchildren by providing programs and funds for innovative classroom instruction, teacher and technology training, and a variety of learning opportunities beyond the school day.

For tickets and information call (203) 854-4068 or visit: www.norwalkeducation.org.

RV collecting footwear for people in need will visit shoe store Oct. 8

DARIEN

Silvana and Allan Clark, who left the Pacific Northwest to travel America as "Brand Ambassadors," will bring the Soles4Souls RV to the Gails

Stride Rite Store, 25 Old Kings Highway, from 2 to 5 p.m. Thursday Oct. 8, to collect "gently worn" shoes.

"We are thrilled that Gails Stride Rite has joined our

cause and have chosen to help us reach victims of natural disasters and those living in abject poverty," said Wayne Eley, Soles4Souls founder and CEO.

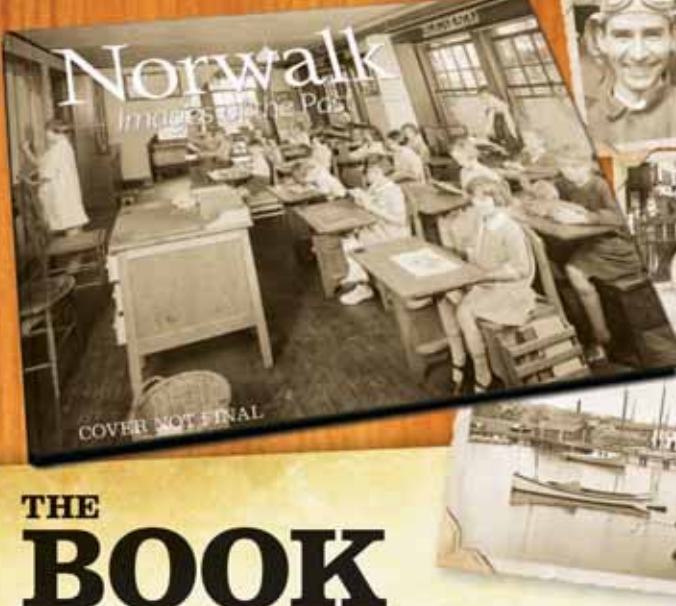
Soles4Souls(TM) has distributed more than 5 million pairs of shoes (currently donating one pair every 13 seconds) to people in more than 125 countries, including Honduras,

Uganda, Romania, and the United States. Soles4Souls is a 501(c)(3) recognized by the IRS.

For more information, visit www.giveshoes.org.

Norwalk

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Norwalk soldier receives commendation during military training session in Texas

NORWALK

A Norwalker with Connecticut National Guard recently was commended in front of her unit during the final after-action review during a training exercise in North Fort Hood, Texas.

Spc. Karen Fajardo is a human resources specialist in the unit. Her job was to help soldiers. She took care of their complaints, issues, and kept account for each of them. She had never been deployed and said she has a very detailed nature which complements her job with the Connecticut National Guard unit and her civilian job as bookkeeper in Norwalk, Conn.

The 118th Multifunctional Medical Battalion was completing all its collective training under the training regimen of the 120th Infantry Brigade and the 75th Division.

These two units oversee the training of Army Reserve and National Guard units deploying for combat. While the 120th Infantry Brigade focuses on collective training such as close-quarters-combat, the 75th Division looks at the unit's staff processes helping it see where it can improve its procedures and responses to crisis.

"The MRE training helped us see our mistakes and in turn I was able to help our subordinate units see their mistakes," Fajardo said.

Most Army Reserve and National Guard units begin planning and preparing for combat



Contributed photo

Spc. Karen Fajardo proudly displays her award after receiving the commendation in front of the 118th MFMB from Col. J.T. Smith, 120th INF BDE Commander for her diligent work ethic during her unit's mobilization training on Fort Hood, Texas Sept. 11.

nearly a year out from their deployment. The unit has several months of individual training at their home station and several weeks of collective training at mobilization training centers like the one at North Fort Hood, Texas.

"Our mission is to train staff for their wartime mission, pull staff together, enhance decision making and planning, and get the unit to assess their procedures and drills before their deployment," said Lt. Col. Ben Black a senior observer controller trainer with the 75th Division.

While the 75th trains a variety of units, one

thing remains constant, he said.

"Safety and risk management is very important and a constant emphasis in our training," said Black.

The MRE occurs at the tail-end of collective training and test the unit's responses to real-world scenarios.

The 120th and the 75th work to make training realistic to gain realistic responses that test the unit at the top down to the unit's most junior soldier.

The 118th MFMB is a new unit that formed about three years ago. It is a mix of soldiers from a medical logistics unit and an area support unit.

CommunityNews

Submit community news by e-mail to atnews@thehour.com, by fax to 840-1802 or to Community news, The Hour, 346 Main Ave., Norwalk CT 06851.