

WALDWICK WATCH

Board of Education accepts nominees

The deadline for filing nominating petitions for positions on the Waldwick Board of Education is 4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 26.

The election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17. There are three three-year seats, and a one one-year seat available.

Prospective school board candidates can obtain a School Board Candidate Kit at the local school district office, 155 Summit Ave. Published by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the School Board Candidate Kit includes a sample nominating petition as well as information about the role of the school board member, legal qualifications for school

board candidacy, the New Jersey School Ethics Act, important dates in the school election process, and briefing sessions for school board candidates.

The board office phone number is 201-445-3131.

Pizzeria offer to benefit Boy Scouts

Natale's Pizza, 14 W. Prospect St., will donate \$1 for every cheese pizza sold (take-out only) on Mondays in January to Cub Scout Pack 88.

Please support the Cub Scouts by making Mondays in January "Natale's Pizza Night!"

Natale's Pizza can be reached at 201-445-2860.

Boosters to host bowling night

The Waldwick High School Booster Club, which supports the athletes and athletic programs, will hold an Adult Bowling Night from 8-11 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at the Holiday Bowl in Oakland. The cost is \$15 per person, and parties of six can be on a lane. For reservations, please call Kathy Vuonino at 201-670-8633 or mail your reservation and check to her at 101 Hudson Ave, Waldwick, NJ 07463.

Library to display art exhibit, more

The Waldwick Public Library has a number of events and

exhibits on tap:

Art exhibit. The whimsical art of Melissa Boland, primarily colored pencil on board and acrylic on canvas, is on display at the library through the end of February.

Councilwoman to read. The Waldwick Public Library's featured community leader for the month of January is Councilwoman Susan O'Dwyer. As one of 16 community leaders participating in the library's Campaign to Promote Reading, O'Dwyer will read youth literature during story time at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23. In addition, a poster of the councilwoman holding a copy of "The Lovely Bones" by Alice Sebold will be displayed in the lobby of the library through Wednesday, Jan. 31. The poster of O'Dwyer was designed by professional photogra-

pher and Library Trustee Bill Smithuysen.

ESL group. Adults who seek to develop confidence speaking English as a Second Language (ESL) are invited to join the ESL Conversation Group that meets at the Waldwick Public Library at 10:15 a.m. on Mondays. The volunteer-led conversation group is designed to engage ESL students in lively dialogue about issues they face in their daily lives.

The ESL Conversation Group is offered free of charge to adult members of the general public. Registration forms are available at the circulation desk at the library.

Waldwick Library is at 19 E. Prospect St. For more information, call 201-652-5104.

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MUSEUM

FROM PAGE 1

toward the station building. Zero dollars are going into the sidewalks of property owners."

In keeping with a preliminary agreement with the borough, residents from a large portion of West Prospect Street have agreed to pay for new sidewalks bordering their properties, Cowie said, while the borough plans to budget for vintage lighting along the same stretch

of roadway.

The Borough Council may provide for the lighting in its capital budget, which is currently being assembled, said Borough Administrator Gary Kratz. The lighting is expected to cost between \$50,000 and \$100,000, depending on the concept agreed upon, said Kratz, who has acted as a liaison between the Alliance, state historical agencies and potential providers of grants for the project.

"Unfortunately in this day and age, there are not a lot of grant pro-

ceeds that are out there that don't involve some type of redevelopment projects or transit villages," Kratz said. "It's going to be a tough search, but we're continuing to beat the bushes on it."

The Alliance plans to meet shortly with borough and New Jersey Transit officials to discuss the extent of the work to be performed on Transit property. Members hope to acquire a lease from Transit that would allow them to make changes not only to the old station building but to facilities still in use, such as the pedestrian bridge spanning the railroad tracks.

"We certainly appreciate their interest in the station," said Courtney Carroll, a spokeswoman for New Jersey Transit. "We are absolutely open to outside groups

showing interest in our stations, so long as there is support from the municipality - as well as adequate funding, so that any projects they have in mind would be able to be seen through to completion."

The cost of a new pedestrian bridge - equipped with ADA-accessible components now required of such construction - could be more than \$1 million. The re-opening and modernization of an underpass below the tracks, which has been closed off for years, could represent a lower-cost alternative, Cowie said.

Alliance members also propose asking Transit's permission to extend their lighting and street-scaping concept alongside the Transit parking lot on Hewson Avenue. Renderings of the plans by

local artist Andrea Mistretta show benches, plantings and paver sidewalks in addition to old-fashioned lampposts.

"I think this will bring a sense of pride back to the town," said Cowie. "Right now the area is kind of an eyesore and people just look the other way."

Alliance members hope the interior of the station building will one day showcase artifacts and photographs from the 19th and early 20th centuries, along with original features preserved within the building since it fell out of use: a potbellied stove, an old coal room, records from the comings and goings of freight trains.

"The clapboard was still in very good shape," said Cowie. "The original benches were in there. It all needs a lot of work, a lot of scraping and painting, but it's all very sound. We were very excited to see that."

Late last year the Alliance performed basic repairs to the outside of the dilapidated building: patching holes in the roof and nooks in gables where animals had built their nests. New screening was installed and broken gutters removed.

A hole in the overhang facing Hewson Avenue was deliberately left un-patched.

"It was done as sort of reminder that we have a lot of work to do on this building," said Cowie. "This town was built around the train station, and the town flourished after the train station was built. You can almost say it's the birthplace of the town, and it would be a shame to let it disappear."

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