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New super takes helm in borough

By MIKE CONDON
EDITOR

MOUNT ARLINGTON – The wide-eyed nervous kindergartners won't be the only new faces in the grades K-8 school district next month.

Newly appointed Superintendent Monica Rowland has been on the job for just under two months. The Frankford resident attended her first Board of Education meeting in July, is getting to know the staff and is, in general, getting to know the probervial lay of the land.

Rowland replaces Interim Superintendent Bernie Josefsburg, who served for about a year, after having replaced long-time Superintendent Jane Jameson.

"The teacher have been very friendly. They have been stopping in to meet me," Rowland said, during an interview in her office at the Decker School on Howard Boulevard.

"I've also probably met a few dozen parents or so. Everyone has been so welcoming. I love it," said the South Carolina native.

Before coming to Mount Arlington, Rowland was the superintendent of the grades K-8 Tewksbury school district.

"I had a great four years there, but I wanted to find something a little closer to home. I wanted to find a district that was similar, small and close knit," she said.



MONICA ROWLAND

Rowland has four children. Zack is 24. Caleb is 22. Hannah is 18 and Samuel is 15. Samuel is a sophomore at High Point High School in Sussex

County.

Hannah is a freshman at Rutgers.

Caleb is enrolled in Clemson University's graduate school in South Carolina. Zack, meanwhile, works at Clemson.

Rowland began her teaching career teaching high school science before entering school administration. Before that, she was a forensic scientist, like on the popular television show C.S.I.

"I worked violent crime scenes, looking for hairs and fibers and stuff like that in South Carolina," she said.

In the educational field for 26 years now, Rowland said her forensic scientists days were a long time ago.

Now focused on getting to know the district, the staff, administrators, parent and students, Rowland has been doing a lot of listening these past few weeks.

"I want to really get an idea of all of the great things that are going on here," she said.

PLEASE SEE ROWLAND, PAGE 2

Childhood cancer benefit doubles funds

ROXBURY TWP. – Before they broke for summer vacation, Roxbury High School students danced themselves to a new record, raising 251 percent more than the previous year to help fight childhood cancer.

Four Diamonds Mini-THON, the Pennsylvania-based firm which organizes the event annually at the high school, recognized Roxbury High School at the 2017 Mini-THON Leadership Summit on Aug. 4 in Hershey, Pa., for achievement in fundraising.

Awards are given to schools who excel in their local Mini-THON through areas including social media use, faculty participation, and fundraising. Roxbury joined more than 800 high school and middle school student leaders and nearly 200 advisors at the annual Mini-THON Leadership Summit to share best practices, celebrate successes and inspire each other to continue the fight to conquer childhood cancer.

According to a press release, Mini-THONs are modeled after the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, or THONTM, the world's largest student-run charity. This new wave of philanthropy has raised nearly \$30 million since 1993 to support families fighting childhood cancer. The funds are used to drive the discovery of new and improved treatments for childhood cancer by funding more than 80 pediatric cancer research team members at the Penn State College of Medicine. Dollars raised through Mini-THON also ensure that every child treated for cancer at Penn State Children's Hospital has no out-of-pocket costs for their family. Four Diamonds covers the cost of childhood cancer care that is not covered by insurance so families can focus on their child getting better.

PLEASE SEE BENEFIT, PAGE 2



Photo by Joyce Bambach

A crane was used to lift, turn and relocate the Roxbury public library gazebo on Main Street in Succasunna Tuesday morning.

MOVING DAY FOR ROXBURY LIBRARY GAZEBO

By MIKE CONDON
EDITOR

ROXBURY TWP. – By about noon on Thursday, the new concrete foundation for the Roxbury library's gazebo had been poured and was hardening.

Contractor Jim Gailums was busy smoothing it as it hardened, ensuring it would be as smooth as possible for Tuesday morning, when a crane was scheduled to lift the white wooden gazebo from its current position, rotate it, and sit it on the new foundation, much closer to, and facing, Main Street, Succasunna.

Gailums, of VJG Contracting, based in Stanhope, said he worked on creating the new foundation for about three days.

One day, he installed the footings. The second day, he poured the foundation and on the third day, Thursday of last week, he was smoothing the hardening slab, on which the gazebo will sit.

The goal of the library board and those planning the project, including Public Works Director Rick Blood, Deputy Mayor Bob DeFillippo and local builder Don Dyrness, is to have the newly restored, relocated and refurbished gazebo

ready to make its inaugural debut to the community on Olde Succasunna Day, which is planned for Saturday, Sept. 9.

Gailums is just one of many who have joined to help, with their tools and talents, revitalize the decades-old gazebo, restore it, move it to a more central location on the library property and make it usable for the library and the community. A rendering of the fully restored gazebo shows white lawn chairs placed around it, so events like concerts, outdoor meetings, poetry readings and the like can be held.

In neighboring Rockaway, for example, the Park Lake Gazebo serves as the stage for a series of free summer time concerts every year.

"Much of the material and fees for the contractor, the Dyrnesses, are donated or discounted," DeFillippo said Thursday.

"Nevertheless, some of the labor and material comes with a cost. We are paying them with money in the library's budget that can only be used for library expansion. The final cost will depend on how much we receive in donated or discounted labor and material. So far, donations from local

contractors and suppliers have been amazing. We will compile a list of donations when the project is finished so that we include everyone who helped," he said.

Dyrness said things are moving along smoothly.

"The library hired Main Street Custom Homes & Remodeling to relocate and refurbish the gazebo. Along with us, our suppliers and trade contractors are donating and/or discounting their goods and services for the project," he said.

Dyrness said that on Friday, they added a steel C-channel on the side facing the Presbyterian Church so that the two center columns could be removed.

This is the side that will be open and facing the library after the gazebo is moved and rotated 90 degrees.

"We are planning the move for Tuesday," he said Friday "We hired a company to build rigging to support the Gazebo and a crane to move it into the new location."

Meanwhile, looking forward a bit, the first concert to dedicate the new gazebo is already being planned.

The North Jersey Wind Collective (NJWC), a group of music professionals, dedicated to the perfor-

mance of high quality wind band music, will perform at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 10 at the gazebo.

According to a release issued by the library, hailing from music departments across the country, the NJWC fosters an alliance among musicians who wish to play large ensemble works with their peers. Concertgoers are encouraged to bring chairs and blankets. In case of inclement weather check the library website at www.roxburylibrary.org for cancellation notification.

Immediately prior to the concert Mayor Mark Crowley and DeFillippo will preside over the new gazebo's official dedication.

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