

Town Hall staff generous for needy students

By DAVID AMBRO

As children are welcomed back to local schools, the Town of Smithtown has taken an initiative to ensure that every child is returning to the classroom with all of the supplies and materials they need.

At the suggestion of Councilwoman Lynne Nowick, and through the impetus of Smithtown Public Information Officer Nicole Garguilo, the town collected enough school supplies for at least 50 needy students in the local community. The town donated the supplies Tuesday, September 4 to the Smithtown Children's Foundation, an organization founded a decade ago to help children in need.

Smithtown Children's Foundation founding board member Christine Fitzgerald was at the town board meeting Tuesday to accept the donations. During an interview after the meeting, she said the donation of school supplies by the town will free up funds the foundation can now use for other causes, such as paying the medical bills of a struggling family.

"If I can pay someone's medical bills and still provide the backpacks and school supplies, this fills that need," Ms. Fitzgerald said during an interview at Town Hall Tuesday.

Ms. Garguilo recently became involved with the Smithtown Children's Foundation by adopting a family to support. Ms. Fitzpatrick said Ms. Garguilo told her that she works for the town and offered the town's support. "We are all volunteers, so it is great to now be cooperating with the Town of Smithtown on this."

Ms. Fitzpatrick said that working in conjunction with the Smithtown School District, the Smithtown Children's Foundation provides about 70 families with backpacks and school supplies its children need to go back to school. The foundation also supplies a handful of local families with gift cards to local grocery stores to buy the food and accessories for a Thanksgiving meal.

At the town board meeting Tuesday, Supervisor Edward Wehrheim thanked Ms. Garguilo for her work on the school supply drive, he commended Councilwoman Nowick for coming up with the idea, and thanked the staff for its strong support. "I think it's a



IN CLASS: Smithtown Children's Foundation founding board member Christine Fitzgerald (right) accepts donations of school supplies from the Smithtown Town Board (from left) Councilman Thomas McCarthy, Councilwoman Lisa Inzerillo, Councilman Thomas Lohmann, Supervisor Edward Wehrheim and Councilwoman Lynne Nowick, after its meeting Tuesday, September 4.

great initiative to be able to send young children off to school with the supplies they need," Mr. Wehrheim said.

"I think it was an excellent effort that certainly is going to benefit many, many children in our community who have parents who are experiencing difficulties and don't have the funding or ability to purchase everything their children need to go to school," Mr. Wehrheim said during an interview after the meeting.

"This way, we have helped to ensure that all children will be able to go to school outfitted with everything they need."

To donate to the Smithtown Children's Foundation or to attend its upcoming events and fundraisers visit smithtownchildrensfoundation.com.

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2018 Fall Lecture Series

Tuesdays in September & October 7 pm

211 Middle Country Rd. Smithtown

Frank Brush Barn

September 18th - Culper Spy Ring

with Mr. Beverly C. Tyler

SPIES! Relive the story of Long Island's Setauket-based Culper Spy Ring through the photographs, maps and documents included in the Three Village Historical Society's **SPIES!** Exhibit. Discover the names and activities of the patriot spies across Long Island who assisted the vital efforts of Washington's spies.

Mr. Tyler is a writer, author, photographer and lecturer on local history. He conducts walking tours and field trips as Revolutionary War farmer and spy Abraham Woodhull and as a 19th century ship captain. Mr. Tyler has appeared on the History Channel's *Histories Mysteries* production *Spies of the Revolutionary War*.

September 25th - Iceland

with Gabrielle Houston

Join former SHS Intern Gabrielle Houston as she takes you over the ocean to the remote but beautiful country of Iceland. Ms. Houston spent time in the summer of 2018 as part of a research expedition for a hiking trail guide book with *Global Treks and Adventures*. She was the cultural anthropologist that studied the cultural and environmental significance of the trails, and will have numerous pictures and stories to share.

October 2nd - Art Appreciation for Beginners

with Meagan Gandolfo

Perplexed by Pollock? Puzzled by Picasso? At this lecture, you will learn how to interpret and evaluate art beyond your first impressions to open up a world of meanings. Discover simple steps to "learn how to see" works of art as well as basic iconography and historical references. In an increasingly visual world, art appreciation is a valuable skill to develop that you can apply to daily life. Absolutely no prior knowledge of art or experience necessary!

Ms. Gandolfo has a Masters in the History of Art and the Art Market & is currently certified as an appraiser for Fine

dedicated to Mr. Pfeifer.

Though Mr. Feal knows a number

been to every naming ceremony since it began in 2011. As an organizer

are personal.

Town staff chips in for local students

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Upcoming events include the eighth annual Mike's Hike and the annual Taste of Smithtown at Flowerfield, which will honor Maureen Dernbach of Maureen's Kitchen, which hosts the foundation's annual holiday lunch.

At the town board meeting Tuesday, Ms. Garguilo said ten days ago Councilwoman Nowick came to her with the idea of having a school supply drive for needy children and families who are going through hardships. She said the town connected with the Smithtown Children's Foundation and launched the drive. "We were absolutely blown away by the response," Ms. Garguilo said.

She sent a memo to the staff and made a few Facebook posts and donations began pouring in. Ms. Garguilo said the staff was extremely generous, accounting for most of the

donations. She added that residents also made donations, many of them stuffing backpacks with an assortment of donations that children will need.

Ms. Garguilo said the supplies will be distributed by the Smithtown Children's Foundation based on a list of children in need provided to it by the Smithtown School District. She said the children on the list will get everything they need for the upcoming school year.

"They will have a wonderful school year without feeling singled out," Ms. Garguilo said. "It really was a great initiative and we are so glad we got to do it."

"Considering the short time we had to do it, the turnout and the result was nothing short of amazing and I would expect nothing less from our Smithtown residents," Ms. Garguilo concluded.

To town board with animal shelter criticism

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the hiring of a replacement and a part-time kennel attendant is unjustifiable. "How much money and staff does it take to feed, exercise and clean up after 30 cats and five dogs, though I know that number is higher at the moment?" she asked.

She also criticized the town for twice extending the deadline for requests for proposals to be submitted by private contractors interested in operating the shelter. "The town really needs to be

honest, transparent and examine its motives," she said. "No one wants to wind up with Hempstead's problems."

For more information about the animal shelter visit its website, townofsmithtownanimalshelter.com, or call 631-360-7575. The website has photographs and descriptions of dogs that are available for adoption.

The shelter is open Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday by appointment.



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