

RUNNING FOR IT



On a beautiful fall day, racers hit the road to benefit Norwood community groups.

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NORTHERN VALLEY

RESIDENTS EVACUATED

Workers rupture gas line; 100 homes cleared

BY TOM CLANCEY
OF NORTHERN VALLEY PRESS

Anxiety levels were high, but no one was injured and no private property was damaged, when about 100 residences in a 300-yard radius surrounding a gas line rupture were evacuated on Thursday evening, Oct. 26, in Harrington Park, Police Chief Albert Maalouf told Northern Valley Press.

Public Service Electric and Gas Co. had been working to seal a minor gas leak at Schraalenburgh Road and Closter Road when equipment being used struck one of the valves and caused it to rupture, Maalouf said.

The chief was at the scene at 7:30 p.m. and evacuations started within minutes, he said. Authorities set up a command post at Schraalenburgh Road and LaRoche Avenue and guided

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IT'S IN HIS NATURE

Accolades for environmental educator



Closter Nature Center naturalist Marc Gussen gathers the children in his class for a group photo near the pond.

Closter Nature Center Director Marc Gussen recently traveled to Cape May with his family to receive the Patricia F. Kane Environmental Education Award from New Jersey Audubon.

The award was presented to Gussen during the environmental organization's 71st Annual Cape May Fall Festival.

"Mr. Gussen exemplifies New Jersey Audubon's mission to connect people with Nature and steward the nature of today for the people of tomorrow," this from the festival booklet.

After receiving the award on Oct. 21, Gussen said that he was happy for being recognized.

"How tickled I am to have a job that I would do for free, even though it is nice to get a pat on

the back every now and then," he said. "And since environmental education is on the fringe of the education system, it is nice that New Jersey Audubon is acknowledging the more non-traditional form of education."

Gussen has a Bachelor of Arts degree in applied ecology from Rutgers University. He has been a naturalist for over 20 years and has been the naturalist and director of the Closter Nature Center since 2001. The nonprofit nature center protects 136 acres of Closter wilderness.

—Steve Kelman

PHOTO BY SUSAN MCTIGUE

NO CAPES NEEDED

The Superhero 5K and Kiddie Dash raised money for emergency services in Old Tappan.

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NORTHERN VALLEY

DIGITAL IMPACT

Teens, kids with tech face new challenges

BY MICHAEL OLOHAN
OF NORTHERN VALLEY PRESS

A former police officer and private investigator who now serves as a school counselor and cyber-bullying consultant told more than 400 Bergen County law enforcement and education officials Oct. 19 that with new technologies available – the internet, smart phones, and phone apps – kids "are being handed the keys to the kingdom" without any training on how to properly use them.

Melissa Straub, director of Cyber Education at High Impact Youth Training Solutions, Paramus, addressed the 26th annual Statewide Narcotics Action Plan (SNAP) Conference at the Venetian in Garfield and told attendees "these children are being exposed and trained on technology from the moment they are born."

"They have this wonderful gift of technology that we have given them that they're not being trained [on]," said Straub.

Straub, who has two daughters, a 9-year-old and 13-year-old, said her work helps to "bridge that gap" between social media and psychology and the schools, law enforcement, and parents related to technology, including issues such as social media, apps, and cyber-bullying.

Straub said on many sites and apps, "the kids get on, there's no age verification. Who else is on there but creepy bad guys?"

"They [kids] will face consequences that we didn't have to face," she said, adding that, "with

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Back in time...

This week marks 500 years since Martin Luther changed the course of Western civilization.

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