

CROSS ROADS

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Spotlight On Our Community

OAKLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THERE WERE MANY PRESIDENTS Day celebrations recently, so the Oakland Historical Society made sure they had one for the renowned guest of the Van Allens 230 years ago, George Washington. The Van Allen House was full Sunday afternoon, February 18, as 40-50 local families and guests attended the occasion. There was, of course, baking going on over the open-hearth fire, as the girls of the Junior Quilters' group and young guests helped bake a cherry pie and pop popcorn.

Visitors toured the house and spoke to Ernest Chrisbacher, a local archaeologist and retired teacher, who had a display of Native American spearheads and arrowheads that he and his family had excavated from the prehistoric Skyline Rock shelter in Oakland near Skyline Drive 25 years ago.

To enliven the festivities, a musical presentation was made in honor of George Washington. Michael Markwis, a local music teacher, and the Society's secretary, sang and played fife and harpsichord along with budding songstress Carissa Bowen and her father, Jim Bowen. Klaus Angermueller accompanied Mike on guitar.

The Oakland Historical Society would like to thank local Webelos and scouts of Pack # 49 for their help in sprucing up the yard around the Van Allen House. We would also like to thank the Oakland Newcomers & Neighbors Club for a donation of \$500 toward repairs of the Streamhouse. Another generous donation was made by Mr. Petrowski and Airbrook Limousine of Mahwah.

THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE ... BIG PLANS FOR 2007

Spring has arrived and we now look forward to warmer weather, outdoor fun, the onset of baseball season and festive activities. For the most part this past winter was fairly mild and uneventful with the exception of a few snowstorms, including a tough storm in March. This is good news for the Borough's budget since each storm costs the Borough money in material and manpower.

Speaking of budget, the Mayor and Council has formally introduced the 2007 Budget and a public hearing has been scheduled for April 25th. As always, we are focused on trimming the budget to keep costs down while trying to maintain the level of services that the residents of Oakland have come to expect. In these trying fiscal times this is quite a challenge. The budget was prepared over the past three months after intensive review and discussion between the governing body and various departments and agencies. All meetings

were publicly advertised, open to the public and televised to promote public awareness concerning the Borough's budget. Budget details will be presented at the April 25th hearing, but the public should be aware that significant cuts were made to contain costs. The good news for 2007 is that overall spending has increased only 2% over the prior year's budget. This is the lowest spending increase in three years.

Although the budget has been introduced and scheduled for public hearing we are continuing to seek out ways to reduce spending. One significant initiative has been a negotiated agreement between the Oakland Volunteer Fire Department and the Borough where the volunteer fire department members have agreed to forego medical benefits that were previously extended to them in exchange for other non health related benefits such as modest increases in volunteer stipends and clothing allowances. This is a win-win situation for everyone and we sincerely thank the OVFD for their cooperation and willingness to assist in containing budget costs.

The Borough is pursuing a joint cooperative lease with the Board of Education for necessary copier replacement. The governing body has also adopted an insurance plan offering managed care options for borough employees that will yield significant long-term savings to the Borough. The Borough is also in the process of negotiating various union contracts with a particular focus on negotiating cost containment measures concerning health benefits. As

(Continued on page 3)



Mayor John Szabo

Message from the Oakland Police Department • By Acting Chief Edward Kasper

The members of the Oakland Police Department's Detective Bureau would like to offer the following advice to residents on how to protect themselves against two of America's fastest growing crimes: identity theft and credit card fraud.

Oakland Police, along with many other law enforcement agencies throughout the region, have seen a dramatic increase in reports in both of these areas. It is imperative that residents safeguard personal information such as social security numbers, birth certificates, driver's licenses and passports. Credit card information should never be given out to anyone who initiates contact with you and requests this information. It is always recommended that credit cards never leave your sight when turning them over to merchants. With the technology available today, it only takes a second for a thief to remove the valuable information contained on your card.

Additionally, residents are asked to please safeguard valuables left in vehicles when leaving them unattended in parking lots and driveways. All items should be kept out of sight, or preferably removed. Doors should remain locked on vehicles and residences alike, at all times. A few seconds spent safeguarding valuable belongings and personal information could save thousands of dollars and countless hours in trying to restore something from an incident.

The Traffic Safety Bureau would like to offer the residents of Oakland the following safety reminders.

Pedestrians: The driver of a vehicle shall yield to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a marked crosswalk or within any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection. NJS: 39:4-36

Overnight Parking: Overnight parking on all Borough streets is prohibited between the hours of 2 a.m. to 6 a.m., (except Sundays and Public Holidays). Boro Ordinance 7-15

View Obstructions: Properties that border intersections should have all trees, hedges and other growth trimmed back to allow motorists a clear view in all directions. No bush, hedge or growth shall have a height of more than three

feet. This will allow a motorist to see the centerline of the roadway when entering or exiting the intersection. Boro Ordinance 12-4.2b.

If at anytime anyone wishes to discuss any of these important matters further, please feel free to call the Oakland Police Department at 201-337-6171.



Kasper Named Acting Chief

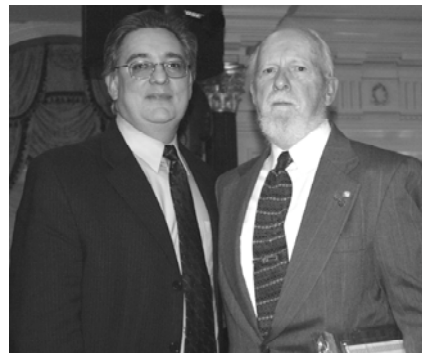
After the retirement of the former chief of the Oakland Police Department, Edward Kasper has stepped in as the Acting Chief. Chief Kasper has been on the Oakland Police force for 17 years. He started in 1990 as a patrolman and worked his way through the ranks with increasing responsibility, reaching the rank of Sergeant in 2000. Chief Kasper became a Lieutenant in 2004. Additionally, Chief Kasper became a DARE officer in 1997 and has been responsible for the administration of the DARE program in the Oakland Schools since 2000.

Lester Woodward Reaches Milestone

On Feb. 26, Lester Woodward became the first 50-year member of the Oakland Volunteer Fire Department. Les joined the department on February 26, 1957 as a member of Company 1, when the department only had one company.

In 1967, Lester became an original member of Company 2, located on Hiawatha Blvd, where he still actively serves today. Lester has held the rank of Lieutenant and Captain and was Assistant Chief of the Fire Department in 1970 and 1971 and again in 1975 and 1976.

On June 11, 2005 the new Company 2 addition was dedicated and named Woodward Hall in honor of Les and his brother William Woodward, who also served with the department from 1957, until he passed away in September, 1995.



Lester Woodward with Mayor John Szabo

At the annual department installation dinner, held on January 13th, 2007 Les was named Firefighter of the Year for 2006 and was also recognized by the department and Mayor Szabo for his 50 years of service to the department and the residents of Oakland.

A Request From the Oakland First Aid Squad

WE NEED MEMBERS!!! The John Robert Walker Memorial Oakland First Aid Squad responded to 836 emergencies in Oakland and our surrounding towns, and we are still in desperate need for members. The squad is entirely volunteer; we survive solely on donations. Our supplies, training and maintenance were all purchased by your generous donations throughout the year, and we thank you. Once again, we are asking for your support during the month of May when we will be conducting our annual fund drive. Remember, our services are entirely free. Let's keep Oakland the type of small community that it should be. Come join the Oakland First Aid Squad. If interested, please call 201-337-7385 (mail-box option #1) and leave a message with your name and phone number.

Rabies Notice

The rabies virus is found in the saliva of infected warm-blooded mammals. Bats, raccoons, skunks, groundhogs, foxes, cats and dogs represent about 95% of animals diagnosed with rabies in the U.S. The Oakland Board of Health offers these little-known facts about rabies and what precautions Oakland residents should take:

- Some wild animals may be infectious even though they appear to be normal.
- Rabies can be transmitted via a bite or by the rabid animal's saliva coming in contact with an open cut. Since animals lick themselves, touching a rabid animal can expose you to rabies if you have an open nick or a cut on your hand.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

1. Have Your Pet Dogs and Cats Vaccinated Against Rabies. Because a current trend in the U.S. indicates that there has been a higher incidence of rabies in cats than in dogs in recent years, rabies vaccination is especially important for cats. Cats left outdoors to roam have a greater chance of exposure to rabid animals, but even indoor cats should be vaccinated, as occasionally they may get out.
2. Do Not Feed or Handle Wild Animals.
3. Avoid Contact with Strays or Pets Other Than Your Own

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE BITTEN

1. Immediately cleanse the wound thoroughly with soap and water.
2. Get prompt medical attention from a physician or hospital emergency room.
3. Report all animal bites to the local health department having jurisdiction where the bite occurred.
4. If you are bitten by a wild animal: Try to confine, isolate or kill the animal while taking care to prevent additional bites and exposures. If captured, wild animals must be tested for rabies.
5. If you are bitten by a dog, cat or other domestic animal: Obtain as much information about the animal as possible, including the animal's vaccination status.

NOTE: There has recently been an increase in the incidence of DISTEMPER in wild animals. Distemper is highly contagious among animals. Be sure your pet's distemper vaccination status is up to date.

DeBoer Celebrates 30 Years With First Aid Squad



Bob DeBoer receives 30 Year Service Award from OFAS Captain Andrea Knapp.

Robert (Bob) DeBoer Sr. was recognized by Mayor Szabo at the January Mayor & Council meeting for his 30 years of service with the John Robert Walker Memorial Oakland First Aid Squad. DeBoer has lived in Oakland for 43 years and has served as a volunteer in Emergency Services for 40 of those years. During his 30 years on the Squad, DeBoer served in many capacities, including Squad Captain six times, represented the Squad on the 17th District of the New Jersey First Aid Council and was both a CPR and First Aid Instructor. DeBoer continues to also volunteer with the Oakland Fire Dept., as he done for the past seven years. Additionally, DeBoer is the Emergency Operations Coordinator with Oakland's Office of Emergency Management, with which he has also been involved for the past six years. When asked what he likes doing best, DeBoer admits that Emergency Medical Services continues to be his "first love" with respect to his volunteer service.

Mayor's Message

(Continued from page 1)

everyone knows, rising health care costs are a significant financial concern for the Borough and we are committed to continue to find ways to save on our insurance costs.

Now that the Downtown Master Plan has been adopted by the Borough Planning Board, zoning ordinance amendments have been introduced by Council to implement the Plan's vision. Once codified by ordinance, the downtown plan will have the force of law and provide the Borough Planning Board with the legal authority necessary to implement the plan through planning and zoning should development applications be filed in the downtown area. The next phase of this project is to now seek out grant opportunities to begin infrastructure improvement projects in the downtown area and develop a viable sewerage plan so that we can promote redevelopment of the downtown business district.

I am happy to report that the long-standing saga of the flood control project is finally coming to an end. The project is just about complete and we look forward to the flood mitigation benefit the dam project is

planned to provide the flood-prone areas along the Ramapo River. My special thanks to Flood Commission Chairman Lew Levy for being such a strong advocate and watchdog on behalf of the community in monitoring this project. I want to assure the community that we will diligently monitor the dam to make sure it delivers on its promise to provide flood relief to our community.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the Borough has been awarded an additional \$600,000 in County Open Space funding to help purchase the Heritage Hills site formerly known as the Pleasureland Pool. That brings the total grant amount awarded by the County over the past two years to more than \$1.3 million. With this grant award, the Borough is now in position to purchase the site with our Green Acres monies, thereby protecting over 60 acres of wetlands and flood-prone land from development. We anticipate adding this parcel to our growing inventory of open space this year. My thanks to Councilwoman Stagg for all her hard work in pursuing these grant funds that will make this purchase possible.

— Mayor John Szabo

News and Tips from the Oakland Environmental Commission

The Oakland Environmental Commission meets the first Tuesday of each month at Borough Hall. One of the responsibilities of the Commission is to review construction plans for environmental impacts. Currently, the Pinnacle development project is under review and members of the Commission have been attending Planning Board meetings. The Commission has submitted comments and will continue doing so throughout the review process.

The Commission also pursues state grants for funding other activities such as feasibility studies. A "Smart Growth Planning Grant" is being pursued to study the feasibility of using "green energy" to supplement existing energy sources in public buildings, both current and proposed. The grant would allow the Commission to study the potential cost savings of improving energy efficiency in existing borough buildings, including our schools. The Commission is hoping Oakland can be one of the leaders in energy reform at a critical time when laws are being formed to force tighter energy standards.

Additionally, the Commission is waiting for the responses for a "trail grant" that was applied for in December, 2006 for creating a trail on the Green Acres land known as the Raymond property along northbound side Rte 202.

Planning for this year's Arbor Day Tree planting is underway and this year, the Environmental Commission will be working jointly with the Shade Tree Commission. Plantings will be done at the Public Library and by the new salt shed at the DPW. The trees provide shade during the hot summers, soil stabilization year round, and

beautify the town by creating inviting areas to sit or walk.

Meet members of Environmental Commission at the Oakland Town Picnic this year! Be sure to stop by our booth to hear about the latest on improving recycling in Oakland and other environmental information. Increasing recycling is a way the town can reduce costs and therefore save us all money. Check the Commission's page on the Borough web site for more environmental information and monthly meeting minutes.

SPRING CONSERVATION TIPS

Spring has arrived and with it comes the yearning for a beautiful yard, lush and green with colorful flowers. However, April showers may also wash away your fertilizers and topsoil, which can pollute local streams and water supplies. Additionally, your plantings can damage your septic system. How can you enjoy gardening and save your local environment? Read on for tips on soil testing, composting and planting tips to protect your septic.

Soil testing: Soil testing may sound complicated, but it's not! The soil-testing laboratory of Rutgers University has made it very easy for you. Knowing what type of soil you have helps you apply the most appropriate kind and amount of fertilizer at the proper time, ensuring that you are "feeding" your plant life and not polluting our environment. To apply optimum levels of nutrients or lime to your soil, it is necessary to know the existing pH and the availability of essential plant nutrients in the soil. Remember, excess nutrients or limestone can be as detrimental to plant growth as deficiencies of these nutrients. Soil test-

ing instructions may be found online at njaes.rutgers.edu/soiltestinglab/

Composting: Composting is a form of recycling that occurs continually in nature and can very easily be started at home. The town already collects our leaves and grass clippings to make compost and many of us enjoy the benefits of the nutrient-rich soil.

Composting can save you and the whole town money by reducing the amount of household waste we throw away, thereby lowering trash bills while also reducing the need for commercial soil amendments. Composting will also save water by helping the soil hold moisture and reduce water runoff. Composting also benefits the environment by recycling valuable organic resources and extending the lives of our landfills. For a lot more information on composting visit environmentaldefense.org

SEPTIC TIPS

Planting tips to keep your septic running well and longer:

- Don't plant a vegetable garden or make ponds on or near the drain field or reserve area.
- Don't put plastic sheets, bark, gravel and other fill near your septic area and don't reshape the ground surface over the drain field or reserve area (just adding topsoil is generally okay as long as it doesn't exceed a couple of inches over the drain field area).
- Planting grass or the existing native vegetation is the best cover for your drain field and reserve area. Use shallow-rooted plants and avoid water-loving plants and trees.
- Direct all surface drainage areas away from the septic system.

Oakland Fathers' Club Continues To Raise Funds For Town Programs

On March 19, the Oakland Fathers' Club hosted its 2nd Annual Beefsteak/Cigar Night at the Brownstone in Paterson to fund three scholarships for Oakland high school graduates. The event was very successful and a good time was had by all who attended.

The Oakland Fathers' Club is a non-profit organization that provides funding and effort toward various scholastic,

athletic, recreation and civil programs for the youth of Oakland.

Other upcoming events include: May 11, 10th Annual Golf Outing; May 19, Spring Pancake Breakfast; and late June, the Oakland Town Carnival.

For more information on the Oakland Fathers' Club, please call (201) 951-3343 or write ofc@oakland-nj.org.

News From Oakland Schools

It Is A Busy Time For Oakland Schools

On the next few pages, all will easily see how busy our schools have been. During March, all students in Grades 3 through 8 took the required New Jersey State tests, which are a direct result of the Federal No Child Left Behind Act. This testing reflects the demanding and complex curriculum that students study, and it measures achievement in language arts literacy (reading and writing), mathematics, and, in Grades 4 and 8, science. We are appreciative of the support given to the schools by parents, the Recreation Program, and the Oakland Police Department as our teachers and administrators prepared students for these long and rigorous tests.

Simultaneously, the Board and the District staff have been working hard to prepare a very prudent budget to operate the schools during the next year. Cost containment initiatives and careful budgeting have resulted in a very responsible spending plan that is well below the State cap. This budget, however,

will ensure the continuation of the high quality of Oakland's schools. Additionally, the bond proposal will enable us to make urgently needed repairs to our schools. Please remember to vote on April 17.

This edition of *Crossroads* also contains articles that highlight initiatives in which the schools are partnering with the Borough and community organizations to enhance health, safety and welfare. This partnership has long been characteristic of this community and makes Oakland so special. By working together on common projects, goals can be achieved and all residents benefit.

Lastly, our students, Oakland's children, make us proud every day. Recent news articles have acquainted the community with their many achievements, including the Valley Middle School Future City team that impressed all at the National Competition in Washington, D.C. Every day, our students work hard in school to develop the academic skills they will need to frame the future and

to develop their many artistic and athletic talents. Additionally, their character is visible every day in their service to the community and in their sensitivity for others. The children are a reflection of the goodness of Oakland, and we thank you for supporting their education and for encouraging them to develop sound values.

The cold days of winter have come to a close. The District thanks the DPW for its help this winter in clearing snow and for making our roads safe for travel to and from our schools. Have an enjoyable Spring.

With best wishes

Dr. Richard G. Heflich
Superintendent of Schools



The Proposed 2007-08 School Budget Explained

To My Fellow Citizens of Oakland:

At this time, I would like to update you on some of the things that your Board of Education has been working on. First and foremost, together with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Richard Heflich and Business Administrator Louis Pepe, the Board is pleased to have put together a budget that will increase only 3.36% over last year's budget, which is well under the state mandated cap of 4%. This translates roughly to an average dollar increase of \$233 per year, per house assessed at \$488,000, the average price of a home in Oakland. The increase of 3.36% reflects the uncontrollable rises in Special Education costs, the employees' contractual raises, and the rising costs of employee benefits.

Please realize that this budget maintains the services within the schools, both infrastructure and academics. We cut very little; but, we also added very little. This was all done with a minimal increase in State Aid — \$30,000 more than last year. I encourage all the voters of Oakland to become familiar with your school budget.

Ask questions of your Board members by attending Board of Education meetings as well as the budget presentation that will take place on Monday, April 9th at 7 p.m. at Valley Middle School. Educate yourself about the budget, so you can make an intelligent decision concerning the children of Oakland, who are also

Oakland's future. Remember to vote on Tuesday, April 17th from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. at your local polling places.

I would also like to report on a joint project being put together by the Oakland Board of Education, Mayor John Szabo, Chief Kasper and the Oakland Police Department, the Bergen County Gang Task Force, and Sheriff Leo McGuire. On Wednesday May 30th at 7 p.m. at Valley Middle School, the Gang Task Force will present a program that will educate our adult community about the rise of street gang activity that is occurring in Bergen County. The adults-only presentation will be informative and interesting.

Gang activity is spreading all over Bergen County. Let us learn more about this problem, so we can better guide our children to make the right choices in life. The Oakland teachers will view the presentation at a different time, as part of their professional development. The Bergen County Prosecutor has mandated that schools have a gang awareness program and the Board of Education is proud to be partnering with Borough of Oakland to present this to the people of Oakland along with the educational staff at each of our schools.

Thank you for your continued SUPPORT for YOUR SCHOOLS!

Jim Gaffney, President, Board of Education

The Bond Proposal ... Why Now For Oakland?

As Trustees of the Board of Education, we must always be searching for ways to save taxpayers money. The bond issue proposed this year is an example.

The Valley Middle School fire alarm system, the upper section of the Valley Middle roof, and the electrical systems in all of our schools must be replaced this year. The cost to replace these projects is \$1.15 million.

If we just put the replacement costs for these projects into the budget, the taxpayers will pay 100% of the cost. But, if we go the bond route, there is a method available to retrieve 40% of the cost — called debt service aid. We have, of course, elected to go with the bond method.

In this way, we put the costs for the projects over a period of time. The people living in town who are receiving the benefit will then pay their share.

What if the Bond Issue Fails?

The three items in the Bond Proposal need to be replaced. If the bond issue doesn't pass, we will not be able to recover 40% of the cost. Instead we would pay in other ways:

1. We would have to get the money for replacement — borrowing from this year's budget, if available, and replacing it in next year's budget, or even going to the town for the needed funds (taxpayers pay).

2. We would have to go for an immediate bid if the system totally failed, with no time to re-bid since we must replace it immediately and cannot "time" the work. The cost, most assuredly, would be higher, and we may be forced to close a school until the repairs are completed.

By going the bond route, we can go to bid with a time factor so the successful bidder can fit the work into his/her and our schedule (when schools are closed). This will ensure we get more bids — more bids usually mean better prices. By going the bond route, we can apply for a 40% rebate (debt service aid). The rebate is only available via a debt issue.

3. The final point: These three projects are going to serve the school district for many years. By spreading the cost over a time period, the people living in town at the time will pay their share, instead of you paying 100% now.

Jim Mulcahy

Oakland Board of Education Trustee

Family Night Comes To Oakland On May 17

The Oakland Board of Education, together with Mayor John Szabo and the Borough Council, have adopted resolutions creating an Oakland Family Night on May 17, 2007.

The Oakland School District's resolution states that the District will not schedule any activities, nor will children be assigned homework on May 17th. The Resolution that was passed by the Mayor and Council states that there will be no meetings of any sort in the Borough on May 17th, nor will there be any recreation practices or games scheduled.

When the Oakland Board of Education decided to sponsor this resolution last month, Board members felt it would be a wonderful opportunity for families to spend quality time together and to remind children that there is nothing more important than family. After discussion with the Board of Education



Liaison Frank DePentima, it was agreed that this was an important resolution to champion.

The Oakland Board of Education,

Mayor Szabo and the Borough Council would also like to thank Christina Sasson, a parent of two Dogwood Hill children, for her efforts in raising the idea of creating a Family Night in Oakland. Her wonderful idea has now become a reality and something that should benefit every family in this community. We encourage all members of the community to share their ideas and suggestions with the members of the Oakland Board of Education and the Mayor & Council.

Again, let's encourage everyone to spend time as a family on May 17th. Eat dinner together, play games together, and let your children know how important family is. Who knows? If it is a big success throughout the community, maybe we can have it twice a year.

John A. Scerbo

Oakland Board of Education Trustee

Making Our Schools Safer: Automated External Defibrillators

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is a leading cause of death in people of all ages in the United States, accounting for an estimated 325,000 deaths each year. Wouldn't it be great if we could take action to reduce that number? Well, we can, by ensuring that Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are readily available wherever groups of people regularly gather.

The Oakland Board of Education (BOE) has committed to purchasing four AEDs, one for each school in the district, and is now exploring funding options. For a total cost of less than \$6,500 the BOE believes this will be money well spent, if even one life is saved.

In SCA, the heart abruptly and unexpectedly ceases to function (cardiac arrest). It is an "electrical problem" caused by a heart rhythm disorder called Ventricular Fibrillation (VF). In

SCA, the heart is no longer able to pump blood to the rest of the body. SCA is NOT a heart attack – a condition technically known as a myocardial infarction (MI) – although SCA can happen in association with an MI. MI is a "plumbing problem" in which a blockage in a blood vessel interrupts the flow of blood to the heart causing an "infarct," an area of dead heart muscle. VF occurs when the electrical signals that control the pumping ability (contractions) of the lower chambers of the heart (ventricles) suddenly become rapid and chaotic. The ventricles begin to quiver and can no longer pump blood from the heart to the rest of the body. Without emergency help, SCA leads to death within minutes. Victims of cardiac arrest can be saved if a defibrillator device is immediately available to deliver an electric shock to restore the heart to its normal rhythm.

When a victim experiences SCA, every minute counts — each minute a victim goes without defibrillation, the chances for survival decreases by 7-10%. But having AEDs deployed at locations where people frequently gather, such as schools or recreation events, can allow trained first responders to deliver potentially life-saving defibrillation therapy quickly and effectively. When an AED is on-site, a person's chances of survival can increase to as much as 60-70%. When one is not present, the chance of survival is as low as 5%.

AED training is very simple and is done in conjunction with CPR classes. The responder simply places the pads on the person in distress. The AED diagnoses the situation and delivers a shock if required.

Jennifer Matts

Oakland Board of Education Trustee

Oakland Students Win Future City

BRANDON BOCELLARI, ALEC CARPENTER AND JAMES KLIMEK, eighth graders at Valley Middle School in Oakland, captured two special awards at the 15th Annual National Engineers Week Future City National Competition held in Washington, D.C. in February. Over 30,000 students from more than 1,000 schools participated in this year's competition.

Our students who represented the New York City Region received the Best Indoor Environment Award from the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers and the Competent and Ethical Engineering Practices Award from The National Society of Professional Engineers.

Oakland's team was featured on NBC News. We are very proud!



Welcome to New VMS Vice Principal

At its regular monthly meeting on March 20, the Board of Education introduced Mr. Carl G. Quillen, Jr. as Valley Middle School's new Vice Principal. Mr. Quillen will join the District after serving for more than 10 years as a middle school teacher in Livingston, NJ, the district in which he also completed his administrative internship. During his time in Livingston, Mr. Quillen served as Outdoor Education Program Coordinator and Interdisciplinary Team Leader.

Having completed an undergraduate degree at Lafayette College, graduate course work in teacher education at Rider University, and a Master of Arts degree in Administration and Supervision from Seton Hall University, Mr. Quillen is well prepared for the challenges of school administration.

Emerging from a field of more than 100 applicants, Mr. Quillen's potential as an administrator was recognized during the Board's very comprehensive screening process. His experience as a middle school science teacher, his in-depth technology background, and his understanding of the preadolescent have resulted in skills that will serve Mr. Quillen well as he assumes this new leadership position in Oakland.

In welcoming his new administrative colleague, Valley Middle School's Principal Dr. Christopher K. Lane said, "I look forward to working together with Mr. Quillen to continue Valley Middle's reputation as a top-quality school."

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ... The Oakland Board of Education and School
Budget Elections are Tuesday, April 17.**
Polls are open from 2 p.m. - 9 p.m.

**And please attend the Board of Education budget presentation —
Monday, April 9, 7 p.m. at Valley Middle School**

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