

PPBHS to present 'Grease'

THE OCEAN STAR

This spring, Point Pleasant Borough High School will present the musical "Grease."

In the starring role is Rydell High's senior class of 1959: duck-tailed, hot-rodding "T-Birds" and their gum-snapping, hip-shaking "Pink Ladies" in bobby sox and pedal pushers, evoking the look and sound of the 1950s in this rollicking musical.

Head "greaser" Danny Zuko and new girl Sandy Dumbrowski try to relive the high romance of their "Summer Nights" as the rest of the gang sings and dances its way through such songs as "Greased Lightnin'," "It's Raining on Prom Night," "Alone at the Drive-In Movie" recalling the music of Buddy Holly, Little Richard, and Elvis Presley that became the soundtrack of a generation.

An eight-year run on Broadway and two subsequent revivals, along with innumerable school and community productions place "Grease" among the world's most popular musicals.

Performances take place in the Loren Donley Center for Performing Arts, 808 Laura Herbert Drive, March 14 at 7 p.m.; March 15 at 7 p.m.; March 16 at 7:30 p.m. and March 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by calling the box office at 732-701-1900 Ext 2218.

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Point Boro police to welcome second K-9

BY KAYLA MARSH
THE OCEAN STAR

POINT PLEASANT — A few months after announcing the establishment of its first K-9 unit, the borough police department will soon welcome a second canine to the law enforcement family.

"In the next few weeks we'll be taking a trip again to receive our second donated dog from Dr. Caesar DePaço," Chief Richard Larsen said during the borough council's Feb. 6 meeting.

"This dog will be trained in patrol procedures and ... will be trained in bomb detection.

"Officer Jeff Johnson will be that handler."

During the meeting Tuesday evening, the governing body and police chief recognized Dr. DePaço, of Summit Nutritional International Inc. in Lebanon, and his family, for their support and generosity in helping the borough establish a K-9 unit.

"He has previously donated 42 police service dogs to departments in the United States and abroad, as well as donated a number of ballistic vests for these dogs," Mayor Robert Sabosik said.

"He generously donated Juno, our German Shepherd ... along with a vest."

According to officials, the department's first K-9 Officer Travis Popiel and K-9 Juno, who were both in attendance during the meeting along with many other members of the department, graduated the New Jersey Police Association K-9 Academy with a dual certification in patrol and narcotics in January. They are currently assigned to the patrol division.

"Juno is an 18-month old German Shepherd from the Czech Republic," Chief Larsen said.

"Juno was trained in the Czech Republic. Six to eight weeks old they start training

these dogs to do what they do and they are the best of the best."

According to officials, the K-9 unit will provide an extra measure of safety as well as other resources for officers and residents alike.

"Officer Popiel attended an approximately 16-week training session down in Voorhees Township and graduated July 5," Chief Larsen said.

"Juno is certified in regular patrol work. For example he's able to enter a building where we suspect there is a suspect secreted somewhere and he is able to ... apprehend the suspect. He's also able to take a track on a lost child, lost adult, a suspect who just committed a fresh crime.

"He also has training in narcotics detection."

With only a few short weeks on the force, K-9 Juno has already proved to be a valuable asset to the department.

"In his first couple of weeks we deployed Juno 10 times," Chief Larsen said.

"Out of those 10 deployments we resulted in the apprehension and arrest of four suspects for heroin possession.

"In addition, in that short three-week period, Juno was successful in two tracks; one where we had a peeping Tom who was also stalking someone ... Juno tracked to a shed on a property that was six or more blocks away. Besides that track we had a woman escape from her house high on something Juno tracked."

Chief Larsen said the department is pleased to be able to have the new unit to support law enforcement efforts and continued public safety.

"It shows in such a short time, the great success we have had with our handler Travis Popiel and our K-9 Juno," he said.

"Both of these dogs, as you can see, are valuable assets to



KAYLA MARSH THE OCEAN STAR

Members of the borough council and police department honored Dr. Caesar DePaço [front, second from left] and his family for their generous donation of K-9 Juno, which helped the borough establish its first K-9 unit.

this police department and will enhance the safety and security of our community."

After presenting Dr. DePaço with a proclamation and plaque to honor his generosity, Mayor Sabosik took a few moments to express the borough's gratitude for the canines.

"His generous donation of the police dogs ... will aid our officers in helping keep Point Pleasant safe and the ballistic vests that will keep our dogs safe," he said.

"This is a prime program for this town and thanks to the generosity of the doctor and his family, this mayor and council will embrace it, will fund it, will back it for the benefit of our community and for our citizens. This unit was sorely needed."

After a standing ovation, Dr. DePaço took a moment to express his thanks for the presentation, stating, "I am very happy to assist law enforcement."

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COURTESY OF FRANK PANNICCI JR.

GOOD MORNING

Mayor Robert Sabosik said "Hello" to students in person and on the morning announcements at Nellie F. Bennett Elementary School this week. The school's "Start with Hello" initiative encourages students to reach out to schoolmates to create a culture of inclusion and connectedness.

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