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Photo by Daryl Stone

DOG DAYS: Sheriff's officer Matthew Jagusak of Cranford gets a king-size hug from his pal, Rico, a member of the county K-9 unit during Saturday's demonstration at the VFW safety fair.

Tighter regulations poised for signs and facades in the downtown district

By Cheryl Moulton Hehl

If a proposed ordinance is passed Tuesday, property owners in the downtown Special Improvement District (SID) will see tighter restrictions on building signs and facade standards in the downtown district.

According to Jeannine Rowe, a member of the Sign and Facade Committee of the District Management Corporation (DMC), the committee has been "flying by the seat of their pants" when it came to helping downtown property owners decide on restoration and signs. Although Rowe said the process was a "give and take" situation, it also was felt the committee needed written guidelines to follow. In 1990 the committee began "kicking around" further definition of the standards, but it took more than a year to come up with guidelines everyone could agree on.

If the proposed ordinance passes a final reading and public

hearing Tuesday, all property in the SID will be subject to the new design standards aimed at helping the downtown area to "compete with nearby commercial centers" and encourage new commercial development.

Although the township Land Development Ordinance previously established design standards for downtown property owners, apparently the ordinance was not well enough defined to enable the township to maintain the standards desired. The amendment to ordinance 90-21 applies to all restoration, rehabilitation, additions, new structures, facades and awnings within the downtown area.

According to the proposed ordinance, any new building constructed in the SID will "evoke" the Victorian architecture unless specifically exempted by the DMC. Existing buildings which make a positive architectural statement would be recognized as "products of their own time" and as making a "positive contribution to the eclecticism" of the SID.

Alterations and additions to buildings, according to the ordinance, should preserve the architectural integrity of the building and not seek to create an appearance that is of a later or earlier period. Air conditioners would not be permitted in any facade treatment. All materials for replacement facades would be required to match the original material.

All proposed signs would not

only have to abide by the LDO provisions in 1979, but additionally must conform to color and design standards. Within this framework, all signs would have to be

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Parole board: Costanzo to live in South Jersey

State Parole Board officials yesterday said that a residency plan for convicted murderer Neil Costanzo has been approved with a release date to be set once he is placed with a South Jersey district parole office.

Costanzo, 31, had served 13 years of a 27 to 35 year prison term for the 1978 murder of his former girlfriend, Cranford High School senior Michelle DeMarzo, before the board in July approved his third request for parole.

He was originally slated to be released Sept. 10 from the Albert C. Wagner Correctional Facility in Burlington County. But plans to live in Stanton with his brother Daniel were changed after numerous complaints and protests were made by members of that Hunterdon County community.

Officials said last week that alternative plans had been submitted by Costanzo for review.

While the board has declined to

means recognition by the greatest stars in the NHL. "I'm very excited," he said. "The last time I went to the ceremony it was to give the induction speech for Eddie Giacomin, the former New York Rangers goalie. Now I'm going to be inducted myself and to be standing on the other side of things is very exciting."

Delano, who began his sports writing career as a Cranford High School student with an article for the Citizen and Chronicle, has published more than 500 articles in almost every major sports mag-

azine, the New York Times, Post, several sports journalism anthologies, as well as a Marine Corps newspaper while serving in the Philippines. He has also published two hockey books: a biography of Ranger's goalie Eddie Giacomin and Power Hockey, a book written in association with Ken Hodge and Don Awrey of the Boston Bruins.

"Did he ever expect to gain a place amongst the greatest of the great? It was always my ultimate goal," Delano says, but adds modestly that he is not the first jour-

By Rosalie Gross

Cranford elementary schools science teacher Linda Madison has won a 1991 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Math Teaching. She is one of 216 teachers nationwide chosen for the nation's highest teaching honor and will be recognized by President Bush in a White House rose garden ceremony Oct. 4.

"I was speechless. I was so excited," said the Cranford teacher in describing how she felt when she received a letter from the White House two weeks ago.

Madison was hired six years ago to the newly created elementary science teaching position. She visits each of the township's five elementary schools to augment the science curriculum in grades 4 to 6 and get the children excited by science.

The award carries a \$7,500 grant to supplement the district's science needs. Madison said she will find out the guidelines for using the grant during her trip to



Linda Madison

Washington Oct. 1 to 6.

Madison was nominated by Walnut School principal Joan Melvin who raved about Madison's family science program last year. The program was presented with a grant from Rutgers University. Madison arranged a series of six science workshops for 15 third grade children and their families. This year the program will be presented at Hillside Avenue School in addition to Walnut.

"She did a superb job," said Melvin. "There was so much enthusiasm. Everyone just loved it."

Melvin added that Madison taught a science course for teachers after school last year and her techniques were so effective that her colleagues gave her a standing ovation after the first lesson.

Melvin encouraged Madison to apply for the award.

"It was a lot of work to put it together," said Madison. She spent two months preparing 40 pages of documentation, which included her views on curriculum, how she would modify her pro-

grams, and evidence of her teaching through pupils' work. The teacher had been notified in July that she won a state award and was eligible for the national honor. The Presidential Awards program was established by Ronald Reagan in 1983 and each year honors four teachers from each state: one math and science teacher at both the elementary and secondary levels.

Madison, who brings lab techniques to her elementary pupils, is a graduate of Cook College at Rutgers University where she majored in environmental science with an education option. She previously taught at Middlesex County Vocational School and Sayreville Junior High School. Madison and her husband reside in Franklin Township with their two children, Ashley, 7, and Jillian, 4. Ashley already has a bent for science, having selected the science and technology school in her district's new magnet school program.

Hugh Delano headed for Hockey Hall of Fame

By John Pitman

In a world of changing goals and goal sizes, it is refreshing to see a man achieve a personal goal that he calls unequivocally, the ultimate. On September 23, Cranford's own Hugh Delano, a sports writer best known in Cranford for his articles and columns about hockey for the New York Post, will be inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame. Of course it's a great reward, he said. "It's always significant to be recognized by one's peers." For Delano, this

means recognition by the greatest stars in the NHL. "I'm very excited," he said. "The last time I went to the ceremony it was to give the induction speech for Eddie Giacomin, the former New York Rangers goalie. Now I'm going to be inducted myself and to be standing on the other side of things is very exciting."

Delano, who began his sports writing career as a Cranford High School student with an article for the Citizen and Chronicle, has published more than 500 articles in almost every major sports mag-

azine, the New York Times, Post, several sports journalism anthologies, as well as a Marine Corps newspaper while serving in the Philippines. He has also published two hockey books: a biography of Ranger's goalie Eddie Giacomin and Power Hockey, a book written in association with Ken Hodge and Don Awrey of the Boston Bruins.

"Did he ever expect to gain a place amongst the greatest of the great? It was always my ultimate goal," Delano says, but adds modestly that he is not the first jour-

nalist to be inducted and that without the players or the game itself, none of this would have happened.

The induction ceremony, which will also honor former Islanders Denis Potvin and Mike Bossy, former Maple Leaf and LA Kings star Bob Pulford, former Ranger and Blackhawks Clint Smith, Scotty Bowman, the winningest coach in NHL history, and former NHL official Neil Armstrong, will be held in Ottawa, Canada on Monday, September 23.

Domestic violence reports up 30% in three years

By Peter Wamsteker and Donald Pizzi Jr.

Reports of domestic violence in Cranford have increased by 30 percent since the state first required municipal police departments to keep such records in 1988.

According to detective Lt. William O'Donnell, the increased number of reports may come from new found knowledge from public awareness campaigns.

"Before, victims felt they had to kind of live with it," O'Donnell said. "But now I think the public is more aware of information and organizations that are available to help."

In 1990, 60 incidents of domestic violence were reported in town compared to 69 the previous year, a decrease of 13 percent. But in 1988 46 incidents were reported representing a 30 percent increase over two years.

Cranford joins Scotch Plains and Clark as two central Union County communities that have seen increased reports of domestic violence since 1988.

Since that time many other county municipalities, including Kenilworth and Garwood, have seen decreases in the number of reports.

A consistent number of cases reported were found in Kenilworth. In 1990 44 incidents were

reported compared to 40 in the previous year, an increase of 1 percent. But in 1988 46 incidents were reported representing a 4 percent decrease over two years.

The number of reports in Kenilworth has remained stable in part because officers advise victims of their rights including acquiring court-issued temporary restraining orders, according to

detective Capt. William Dowd.

Garwood, however, has seen a more precipitous drop in the number of reported incidents over the same two-year period: In 1990 29 incidents were reported compared to 20 the year before. In 1988 36 incidents were reported representing a decrease of 19 percent over the two-year period.

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Photo by John Kauling

BACK IN TIME: Diane Connell of the Cranford Historical Society is showing Sarah An Clader and her father, John, how to operate a spinning wheel at Sunday's Harvest Festival at the Crane's-Phillips House.

Paper drive

Boy Scout Troop 178 of St. Michael Church will conduct its monthly paper and aluminum can collection Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Conservation Center. Newspaper must be tied. The recyclables will be collected at the truck, not the dumpsters.