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Olneyville Neighborhood News

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William D'Abate Presents: Peter Pan

On Thursday, June 13, 2013, the cafeteria at William D'Abate Elementary School was transformed into a theater as the D'Abate Community School After-School Program put on the Peter Pan Production, choreographed and directed by teacher Donna Rodriguez.

The kids of William D'Abate had been rehearsing this production since the after-school programs began in October, 2012. They put in many hours of practice, including the February and April vacation breaks.



The set of the show began in Wendy's bedroom and traveled into the Neverland Forest, Captain

Hook's ship even sailed through. The set was created by Ms. Jodi Chirico. Her creation was brought to life by a group of students at William D'Abate during the Mural Club after-school program. These kids had to draw, paint, cut and design many different aspects of the set. All of the costumes were put together by Ms. Reva Rebeiro, Ms. Elizabeth DiPippo and Ms. Jodi Chirico.

The show was well attended by over 150 people. The kids sang, danced and acted like seasoned professionals. Congratulations on a job well done!

-By Angel Brown

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FREE Summer Movies in the Park Series

All movies start at dusk (approx. 8pm). Family-friendly!

- **July 31: Ratatouille** - Joslin Park, Florence St.
- **August 7: E.T.** - Riverside Park, Aleppo St.
- **August 14: Happy Feet** - Joslin Park, Florence St.
- **August 21: Ghostbusters** - Riverside Park, Aleppo St.
- Presented by Olneyville Housing and Councilwoman Sabina Matos
- Sponsored by Anthony's Drug Store, Armory Revival Company, Olneyville NY System, Representative John Lombardi, Senator Paul Jabour, and Wes' Rib House

La Serie de Peliculas GRATIS en los Parques

Las peliculas empieza a la DUSK (aprox. 8pm). Para toda la familia!

- **31 de Julio: Ratatouille** - Parque Joslin, calle Florence
- **7 de Agosto: E.T.** - Parque Riverside, calle Aleppo
- **14 de Agosto: Happy Feet** - Parque Joslin, calle Florence
- **21 de Agosto: Ghostbusters** - Parque Riverside, calle Aleppo
- Presentado por Olneyville Housing and Councilwoman Sabina Matos. Patrocinado por Anthony's Drug Store, Armory Revival Company, Olneyville NY System, Rep. John Lombardi, Senator Paul Jabour, y Wes' Rib House

Member Organizations of the Olneyville Collaborative / Miembros de la Colaborativa

A Sweet Creation Youth Organization, Boys & Girls Clubs of Providence, Building Futures, Cathedral of Life Christian Assembly, Childhood Lead Action Project, Children's Friend, Clinica Esperanza/Hope Clinic, Dirt Palace, District 5 Police, English for Action, Environmental Justice League of RI, Fete Music, Habitat for Humanity of Rhode Island, Institute for the Study & Practice of Nonviolence, Joslin Community Development Corporation, Joslin Recreation Center, Rhode Island LISC, Manton Avenue Project, Meeting Street, Nickerson House Community Center, Olneyville Community Library, Olneyville Health Center, Olneyville Housing Corporation, Olneyville Merchant Association, Olneyville Neighborhood Association, Providence After School Alliance, Providence Housing Authority, Recycle-A-Bike, Social Venture Partners RI / Social Enterprise RI, Swearer Center / D'Abate Community School, The Steel Yard, United Way of Rhode Island, William D'Abate Elementary School, Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council, YMCA of Greater Providence, YouthBuild Providence

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Learning Through Doing: Build-A-Bed Project Brings Together Cross-Curricular Skills

YouthBuild Providence's students were presented with a central question this year. How can we better our communities by designing a project that is both economically and socially sustainable? The result was Build-A-Bed, an event that brought together nearly 200 volunteers on Saturday May 4th to build and deliver 50 beds to Providence children. This cross-curricular project included all areas of the YouthBuild program's educational experience including: English/language arts, mathematics, critical thinking, leadership development, communications, social studies and construction arts. Students, as always, played a major role in the planning and implementation of the event. Several students even took on leadership roles in chair-person positions from crew leaders to food and beverage management.



Students participated in a three day design charrette where they had to problem-solve design issues dealing with safety regulations of toddler beds, investigate the benefits of various building supplies, and develop checklists to ensure project prep work was completed in a timely manner. When asked to reflect on the experience,

students commented that it didn't feel like just learning, it felt like doing. Students were asked to draw a scaled diagram of the event site and place the stations in the appropriate locations that would not only allow for easy access, but keep the children's activity area clear of the building sites. Reflecting on the exercise, they said it was more like putting a puzzle together than using math skills.

This will be an experience that they will take with them forever. Living the YouthBuild Providence philosophy put the whole year into perspective for some. Other students reported that they used the opportunity to network with business owners that were present as well as volunteers from various Providence organizations. Amazed by the amount of people that showed up to this first annual event, both students and alumni of the program are looking forward to next year's event and have already begun to leave notes for next year's class on ways to be more efficient in prepping for Build-A-Bed.

-By Elijah Stephenson and Anthony Hubbard

Vida Sana: Social Clubs to Improve Health

Clínica Esperanza/Hope Clinic (CEHC) recently received a grant from the Rhode Island Department of Health to hire and train community health workers known as *Navegantes* to expand a clinic-based chronic health intervention program from the clinic into the community. The program, called Vida Sana, is a free 8-week long program currently taking place in a number of different locations in Providence. The *Navegantes* are men and women who have no formal healthcare education but have been trained to advocate for their peers in the community, to teach basic nutritional facts and to help patients stick to their medications and dietary regimens prescribed by their physicians. Perhaps more important, the *Navegantes* are engaged in teaching community members how to avoid developing chronic diseases such as high blood pressure and diabetes by keeping their weight in control, making healthy food choices, and engaging in exercise.

The program is already having a positive impact. One success story comes from Kerri, a graduate of the Vida Sana Program. Kerri is only 28 years old, but she has already been diabetic for 10 years. When she arrived at CEHC, her blood sugar was sky-high and she had signs of

early kidney damage. Controlling her blood sugar required insulin, not just oral medications. Thanks to the clinic's *Navegantes*, she has become an expert on "counting carbs" and giving herself the right dose of insulin. She lost 14 pounds, exercises regularly, and is much more confident about managing her diabetes. Most important of all, she understands the importance of her own decisions when it comes to improving her own health.

The *Navegantes* incorporate fun, social activities into the sessions, such as exercise classes (to salsa music), nutrition bingo, teaching participants about food portion sizes and how to read food labels. Recently, Zumba classes were added to the program. Luz Betancor, CEHC *Navegante* and Zumba instructor, says "all the participants really enjoy the classes and are seeing incredible results." Over time, most participants have lost weight and lowered their blood pressure, blood cholesterol, and in the case of diabetics, have been able to achieve better blood sugar control. For more information about the Vida Sana program and CEHC, please call 347-9093 or visit our website: www.aplacetobehealthy.org

-By Farzana Kibria and Dr. Anne DeGroot

New Way to Request City Services

Ward 15 Councilwoman Sabina Matos recognized that residents want to be proactive about cleaning up the neighborhood, but don't always know how they can help. One of the easiest and most effective ways that community members can keep the neighborhood clean is by maintaining their own properties, and reporting any problems they identify on their street to the City. Councilwoman Matos explains, "The longer you leave items outside the more it encourages others to dump – that's why we should pick it up." Annual neighborhood cleanups are a great way to mobilize the community and create momentum, but keeping the neighborhood clean must be a year round effort by everyone involved. She wanted to create an easy and accessible way for residents to report issues that require city services.

Residents can now fill out an online form at: www.olneyville.org/stewardship to report potholes, broken sidewalks, graffiti, illegal dumping, mattress pickup, garbage collection, and other issues. The information collected here is sent to Councilwoman Matos, who then sends it to the correct City department to take care of the issue. It is also sent to the Department of Neighborhood Services so that they can track it in their system. "I love that this gives me a way to track everything and see what's been done. I can look at who I contacted from which department so that if it hasn't been taken care of I can go back and say 'look this is an issue that has been going on since this date'," says Matos. She hopes that other City Council members will adopt the same form for their wards as well and the system will become city-wide.

Finding the Confidence to Speak at English For Action

When Brenda Flores began taking classes at English for Action last September, she didn't speak any English. She only knew very basic words and phrases such as "thank you," "good morning," and "how are you." She was scared to speak, but wanted to begin learning because she knew it was necessary for her family, for communication, shopping in the store, for work, and to defend herself. Flores explains, "Sometimes it is very difficult and sad because people don't understand my life because I don't know how to speak English."

After two semesters at EFA, Brenda is less nervous to speak and now has ideas of how to respond in difficult situations. In her Intermediate class this spring, the learners were given a situation or conflict that they had to solve and then act out their solution in a skit. They worked on scenarios such as returning something to a store or getting pulled over by the police. Flores explains that practicing in the safety of the classroom gave her more confidence to use her English skills in the real world. For example, she was able to effectively communicate at the dentist's office, thanks to the dialogue practice she had done in her spring class.

Consuelo Robles, a fellow classmate of Flores, is also benefitting from her improved English skills because she now has a new way to connect with her grandchildren, who all speak English. She likes to ask them about the meaning of words, or to explain what they said, and in this way is both learning and deepening relationships with her family. After her second semester at EFA, Flores has concluded that it is a friendly, comfortable, and family-like environment. "All the people are brothers and sisters, and take care of each other," she says with a smile. "If somebody needs help they can help each other." This gives a strong sense of community.

-By Lena Sclove

Enroll in English classes to begin in September: English for Action has morning and evening ESOL classes and a High School Diploma class all beginning in September. Childcare available for the evening classes. Registration period begins the third week in August. Please call the office today at 401-421-3181 to get more information and to put your name on the waitlist!

New Brand Identity for Olneyville Square

Since late last fall, Olneyville Housing Corporation has been working with a group of area businesses to beautify and improve the Olneyville Square business district as part of the Square One initiative. The group has been working together to develop a unified identity and beautification plan for Olneyville Square to help raise awareness of Olneyville as a strong and vibrant neighborhood in Providence, and great place to live and work. Since late last fall, they have been working with a team of marketing and communications consultants to develop a unique logo and

brand identity, which was revealed last month.

The first set of designs reflect some themes that are common to the Square: River and Environment, Biking, Art and Entertainment, Latin Culture, images from around



Olneyville SQUARE **Olneyville SQUARE**

the square itself and original artwork.

Expect to see the new brand pop up around the square in the next few weeks! To check out more variations of the mark, go to: www.ovsquare.com.

-By Lisa Carnevale

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