
Walk Against Domestic Violence in Newburyport celebrates the 30th anniversary of crisis center

By Wendy Killeen

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STEPPING OUT AND UP: The Walk Against Domestic Violence in Newburyport on Sunday honors the 30th anniversary of the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center.

The annual walk is the crisis center's largest fund-raiser, with proceeds supporting its free programs and services helping individuals and families at risk because of domestic violence.

Services include a 24-hour emergency hot line, crisis counseling, advocacy, legal representation, children's trauma services, art therapy, and emergency and transitional housing.

"The resources being offered to domestic violence victims have come a long way in the last three decades," said Suzanne Dubus, chief executive of the crisis center. "What began as an emergency hot line and peer counseling has turned into making a wide variety of services available to address the many needs of survivors. Some of the services we offer now, such as our legal program or our children's trauma program, were things we could only have dreamed of offering in 1982. This year's Walk Against Domestic Violence helps raise the funds to underwrite this critical work."

This year's walk kicks off earlier than in the past, with 8 a.m. registration and 9 a.m. start. It also has a new 3.5-mile route, starting at the windmill by Mark Richey Woodworking, 40 Parker St., and following along the rail trail. There is no road race this year.

Walk participants are encouraged to register online at jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org and track pledges on a personalized fund-raising page. All walkers are asked to make a minimum \$30 donation to recognize the organization's 30th anniversary.

Participants of all ages are welcome. Call 978-465-0999.

SPECIAL ATHLETES: Pingree School in South Hamilton hosts the Special Olympics Massachusetts North Section Annual Soccer Assessment on Sunday.

It is the largest soccer tournament that the North Section holds each year, with approximately 30 teams participating. At the assessment, athletes are evaluated on their abilities to go on to the state tournament on Nov. 6 at The Governor's Academy in the Byfield section of Newbury.

Pingree faculty and students are volunteers for the day, which begins with opening ceremonies at 9 a.m. The first competitions are at 9:30 a.m.

Special Olympics is an international organization that promotes healthy lives by encouraging and empowering people with intellectual disabilities, promoting acceptance for all, and fostering communities of understanding and respect worldwide

Anyone who would like to volunteer at the soccer assessment should call the Special Olympics North Section office at 978-750-1051, ext. 402.

Visit specialolympicsma.org

AT LOCAL HOSPITALS: Joy Curtis has been named vice president for human resources at Cambridge Health Alliance, which operates three hospital campuses and a network of primary and specialty care practices in Cambridge, Somerville, and metro-north communities. . . . Lahey Health System in Burlington has announced the members of its new board of trustees, following the successful completion of an affiliation between Northeast Health System and the Lahey Clinic, which formed Lahey Health System. Ann Ellen Hornidge, a partner with the law firm Mintz Levin, is serving as chairwoman and Linda Moulton, chief executive officer of Ceralta Technologies Inc. is vice chairwoman. Patricia Meservey, president of Salem State University, also sits on the newly established board, which includes business and education leaders, legal experts, physicians, and entrepreneurs.

WHO'S WHAT WHERE: Wadson Michel of Woburn and Vicente de la Rosa of Lawrence were recently honored at the State House for their work as caregivers. Michel, a crisis counselor in the Somerville public schools and a volunteer with Helping Hands for Haiti, was recognized for his dedication as a personal care assistant for a young man with development disabilities for 15 years. La Rosa was recognized for providing daily care to two clients who live independently because of his help . . . Thomas Egan Driscoll has joined Rockport National Bank as a senior vice president of sales and business development.

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