

# Neighbors



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## Our Friends

### — Faces in the Crowd —

# Locals named to regional board



Tammi Knapik

### Raymond Phycho Biselle Always tell the truth

Each week we interview a 'regular person' like you for our Faces in the Crowd. This week we meet youth Raymond Phycho Viselle.

**How long have you been connected to Southington?**

Six years.

**What do you like about the town?**

I like my friends at Derynoski School. I play a lot of sports and I love to swim at this time of the year.

**What is your favorite movie?**

"Cars." I actually watched it last night again. I like the race cars. It reminds

me of one of my favorite racing video games that I like to play.

**What is the best piece of advice you have ever received?**

My Dad always tells me to always tell the truth.

**If you could meet anyone in the world, who would you like to meet?**

Sponge Bob Square Pants. I like his show. I'd like to go and visit him in his pineapple house under the sea.

The Community Foundation of Greater New Britain (CFGNB) recently elected new officers to their Board of Directors and Committees all of whom bring a wealth of experience in both the business arena and local community issues to the organization. Two of these newly elected members are from Southington.

Patricia M. Walden, Vice President, Central Connecticut Senior Health Services, found her calling working in the field of senior care thorough a position as a nursing assistant at an inner-city nursing home while at Southern Connecticut State University earning her degree in Education.

Having worked at numerous healthcare centers and nursing homes during her career, Walden opened Southington Care Center in 1990 as its first executive director. She has played a key role in the development of a senior care continuum in

Connecticut known as Central Connecticut Senior Health Services which is affiliated with The Hospital of Central Connecticut. Walden served on Secretary Tommy Thompson's Advisory Committee on Regulatory Reform in 2002. In 2005, she was selected as Humanitarian of the Year by the CT Association of Not-for-Profit Providers of Services for the Aged and was also the recipient of the Unsung Hero Award from the YMCA of Southington and Cheshire.

Walden serves on the boards of several organizations including the Connecticut Association of Not-for-Profit Facilities for the Aged, the Connecticut Alliance for Long-Term Care and the Southington-Cheshire YMCA.

She is an active member of the Southington Rotary Club and the American College of Health Care

Administrators. She and husband, Geore Gorecki, reside in Southington. They have three grown children.

Walden states, "It's truly a pleasure to be joining the Community Foundation's Board of Directors. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve with others who share a common vision and commitment to making a difference in our communities. Over the years the Foundation has helped countless seniors and their loved ones through support for many innovations and resources for people of all ages in our communities. This is my way of saying thanks and helping to keep that flame burning for others."

Marc S. Pelletier, PC, CPA runs his own accounting firm located in Southington. He brings a wealth of business and finance experience to his position on the Audit Committee.

Pelletier has strong civic ties serving as past

chairman for the United Way of Southington and a director for the Southington Chamber of Commerce.

He also served on the Legislative Committee for the Connecticut Society of CPA's and is a current member of The Elks Club. Pelletier received his degree from the University of Hartford.

He and his wife Mary Ellen live in Southington with their three children.

"Having enjoyed spending the past two decades both living and working in Southington, I am familiar with many organizations that do terrific work in this community. I became involved with The Community Foundation of Greater New Britain through the assistance they provided the United Way of Southington; an organization that is near and dear to me. I look forward to passing on the assistance by serving on the CFGNB's Audit Committee," said Walden.

# Annual Strawberry Festival draws a crowd

Devin Galante and Lillian Graham were named the winners of the Little Miss and Mr. Strawberry Shortcake contest held at the Village of Plantsville's 14 Annual Strawberry Shortcake Festival. The festival took place on June 18, at the Plantsville Congregational Church.

Baskets for the winners included a donated \$50.00 gift certificate from both Target and Wal-Mart of Southington. The following young girls were kind enough to help out at our event: Caroline Appelle, Miss Plantsville, Katerina Belales, Miss Southington Preteen, Kaylee Brennan, Miss Southington Petite 2010 also dressed as Strawberry Shortcake and Caitlyn Quilter, Miss Pre Petite.

The Village of Plantsville Association thanks the following individuals, families and businesses for their contributions to the Strawberry Festival. Along with the Merchants of Plantsville we



SUBMITTED

Devin Galante and Lillian Graham were named the winners of the Little Miss and Mr. Strawberry Shortcake contest at the festival.

would like to thank Pepsi, Southington Chamber of Commerce, Plantsville Engine Company #2, Boy Scout Troop #45, Southington Jaycees, Plantsville Congregational Church, Number Nine, The Arc of Southington, Tops Supermarket IGA, The Orchards, Southington Community Services, Bread

for Life, Say it with Signs, Fanelli Design Group, Joann Salerno, Superior Rentals and The Asado Restaurant.

Other donations were made by Aqua Turf Club, Beaded Bead Shoppe, Budget Auto, Chili's, CMC Computer LLC, Coco Keys Water Resort, Elliot Insurance, Family Therapeutic Massage



SUBMITTED

Master Valentin from Valentin Karate gave a demonstration at the Cub Scout pack 8 May meeting. They taught the scouts about respect and the proper used of martial arts. Each scout got to break a board.

### Send us your letters!

We welcome letters to the editor from all of our readers. Send your letter to editor Ed Harris at eharris@SouthingtonObserver.com, or mail them to The Observer, 213 Spring St., Southington, CT 06489. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday for the following week's edition. The editor reserves the right to edit all letters for length or grammatical errors.

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