

Community Watch Program Plants Public Safety Awareness, Education, Flowers and Vegetables on Earth Day

POINT PLEASANT – Standing in front of the Community Watch Program’s booth at the borough’s 6th Annual Earth Day celebration, eleven-year-old Elizabeth Peled listened intently as she was told how to plant pumpkin seeds in a small, compost-filled recyclable pot.

“In staying with the theme of Earth Day’s reduce, reuse and recycle, I found it important to plant the seeds and cultivate the concepts of being a good neighbor and sharing the responsibility we all have in protecting our neighborhood, one street at a time,” said Council President Rogers who initiated the neighborhood watch program that now has more than 700 families and over 300 streets registered in the resident-based organization that has already proven to reduce incidents criminal activity in the borough.

Elizabeth’s mother, Mary, also listened closely to Council President Rogers, who explained how to properly plant the seeds that were held in packages that were labeled with the www.pointborowatch.com web address and program phone number in growing effort to encourage more residents to register for the program.

Peled was one of many children and adults alike to visit the booth manned by Neighborhood Watch Resident Coordinator CJ Sabosik, along with Cathy Aiello, Watch Editor of the upcoming newsletter “Neighborhood Eyes” and watch volunteers Mitch Remig, Toni DePaola, Bob Sabosik, Marty Murdoch and Pat Aiello who passed out packet of seeds, including a variety of beautiful flowers, tomato, corn, peppers, watermelon and pumpkins.

“This is a wonderful program that truly gets you excited to participate in what it really means to be a good neighbor and keeping your eyes open on your street and in our town to help prevent crime. My children and I want to do more and get involved in the upcoming safe zone program and the kids are excited to work with our police department, said Toni DePaola.

“As a special police officer and a first emergency responder, I know this programs works in preventing crime and enhancing safety in our neighborhoods. It is a great way to show you care about those living next to you, your friends and family and it promotes an added sense of security knowing we are all in this together, said Mitch Remig.

Among private vendors selling intricately detailed jewelry and delicious faire, non-profit organizations, including the U.S. Green Building Council, Barnegat Bay Estuary Program, Clean Ocean Action, the Point Pleasant Garden Club and various other environmentally friendly groups set up shop at the

Community Park field, informing the passing public on how to preserve the environment.

During the afternoon event, the Point Pleasant Environmental Commission of which Council President Rogers is a former commissioner and liaison, announced the annual poster contest winners and cheered the success of its 2nd Annual Education Module – The 3 R's, which was performed by commission members in March for both the fourth and fifth-grade classes of Nellie Bennett and Ocean Road Elementary contest.

The Point Pleasant Neighborhood Watch Program looks forward to celebrating its first annual public safety extravaganza branding with the National Night Out nationwide program on August 4th in the Community Park as it touts the sensation of the "Power of Good Neighbors."

"National Night out is just another way to draw neighbors, family, friends and most of all our youth closer together so we can enhance public safety through education, promoting all types of safety, drug and gang awareness while preserving the very quality of life we so enjoy here in Point Pleasant," said Council President Rogers, noting the borough will celebrate the event with rides, cook outs, flash light walks, video screen presentations and health, public safety and human service displays and vendor booths.

For more information on the Community Watch Program or registering space for National Night Out, please contact Council President Susan Rogers at (732) 600-4433.