

KIDS VOTING NY

Approximately 1,200 Sweet Home students cast their ballots for town, county and state candidates and proposals during Kids Voting NY.

As their parents voted via machines nearby, students completed paper ballots, voting for the same people and issues as mom and dad.

Results specifically for the Sweet Home Central School District were not available.

Across Erie County, students chose Patrick Gallivan for Erie County sheriff; students voted for Lynn Marinelli to

represent the 11th Legislative District, Dennis Ward to represent the 14th Legislative District and Randi Cohen-Kennedy to represent the 15th Legislative District; students elected Susan Grelick Amherst town supervisor; and they they chose John Hedges for Tonawanda highway superintendent.

Classroom activities in the district's schools prompted students to learn more about the electoral process.

Kids Voting NY is a member of Kids Voting USA, a non-partisan, nonprofit, grassroots-driven voter education

program. Kids Voting NY, initiated by The Buffalo News, was founded as the largest pilot project of its kind in the United States.

This year's Corporate Champions of Democracy are Armor Box, Bell Atlantic, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of WNY, The Buffalo News, Cellular One, M&T, Newspress, Tops Friendly Markets and The Margaret L. Wendt Foundation.



Volunteers from the University at Buffalo's Poder Latinos Unidos, one of the People of Color Council Clubs, volunteered during the early morning shift at Temple Beth Zion School and Eggertsville United Church of Christ. From left: Ariel Escobar, Vicky Almendarez, Carlos Santiago and Marcelo Morales; front: Sean Reyes.

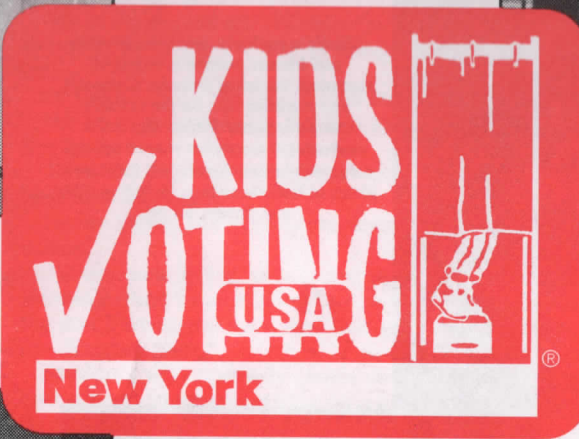


These three Middle School students were the first Kids Voting NY voters of the day at that location. From left: Derek DiGrace, Brittny Mandarin and Lindsey Gorman, assisted by volunteer and Tops International employee Dawn Roberts. Students made sure that Roberts signed their Student Voter Registration cards to get extra credit.





Members of Junior Girl Scout Troop 298 and Sweet Home High School Participation in Government students Christa Witmer and Andrea Daigler readied the voting area at Heritage Heights Elementary School.



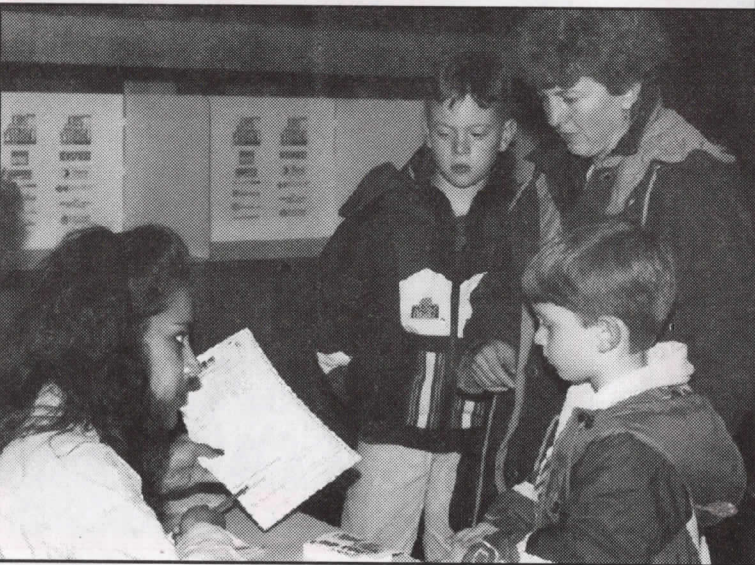
Standing behind the voting carrels and in front of a shiny red, white and blue banner at Maplemere Elementary School were volunteers Mary Zaehring and Nancy Lesswing.



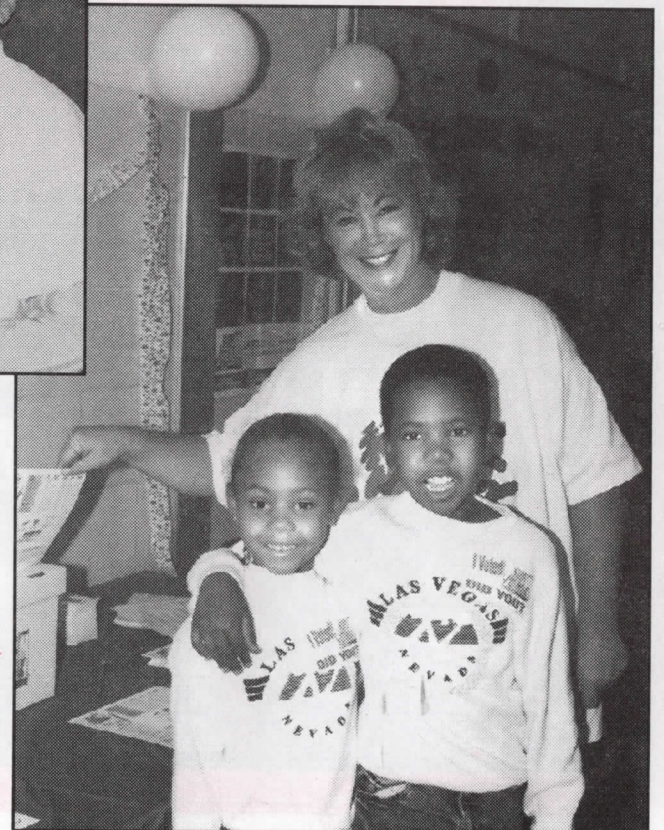
Edie Martin, who works in the office at Amherst Baptist Church, volunteered for the 6-8:30 a.m. shift and helped a few early-bird voters cast their ballots.



Members of Amherst's "Young at Heart" senior citizens group volunteered their time at St. Leo's School. Marvin Kabza (left) and Lenny Krajewski each donned a Kids Voting NY T-shirt for the occasion.



Cellular One employees staffed the Kids Voting NY polling place at St. Edmund's School. Neeti Ellis, left, explains the ballot to Maggie Arnold, there with her husband Bob and their children Tim, a second-grade student at Glendale, and Dan, a fourth-grade student at Glendale.



At Willow Ridge Elementary School, Lauren West, a second-grader at the school, and Michael West, a fourth-grader also at the school, cast their ballots with the help of Polling Place Captain Liz Ptak.

KEEPING OUR STUDENTS SAFE

By Cheryl Krajna

Children's safety was the focus of two programs in our schools June 4. While the programs were presented at a time when students' thoughts had turned to the long summer vacation ahead, the lessons taught apply all year.

Town of Tonawanda Police Department Detective Joseph T. DeMatteo of the Community Service Bureau shared bicycle safety information with all students at Glendale in two sessions in the cafeteria.

Students watched a video about the dos and don'ts of bike safety, reinforcing lessons such as the importance of riding with the flow of traffic, the importance of wearing a helmet, the necessity of signaling for turns and the mandatory helmet requirement. DeMatteo then reviewed some of the most important aspects with them, such as making sure the bike is the proper height for each individual rider, making sure it has reflectors and making sure its brakes work. The detective even selected a student from the audience to try on a helmet.

Scores of hands were raised when DeMatteo asked to see how many students have and drive a bicycle. Nearly as many hands were raised when DeMatteo asked about in-line skates. Children should wear a helmet and protective gear (such as elbow and knee pads and wrist guards) when in-line skating, too.

Current safety laws require all children under the age of 14 to wear a helmet when driving a bicycle and/or in-line skating. The Sweet Home Central School District's regulation also requires students to wear a helmet when participating in these sports on school property. Erie County has a Local Law that states that anyone driving a bike in a county park, any age, must wear a helmet.

In New York state, it is illegal to take a child under the age of 1 on a bike, and it is illegal to take a child under the age of 5 on a bike unless he/she has his/her own bike seat.

Amherst Police Department Officer Kenneth Beilman visited Willow Ridge, Heritage Heights and Maplemere for a similar program on bike safety, the use of helmets and other protective equipment and auto safety.

At Maplemere also June 4, Beverly Ann Shipe, School Nurse Teacher/Practitioner, used a new device, an Interactive 911 Simulator, to show children the proper way to dial 911.

Seated next to a poster listing "15 Ways to Stay out of



Beverly Ann Shipe, School Nurse Teacher/Practitioner, demonstrates the Interactive 911 Simulator with student Eileen Hagerty in Leigh-Ann Hildreth's first-grade class at Maplemere.

Trouble," Shipe began the lesson by showing slides of individuals in various situations. The first slide showed a family, including a baby. No knives, medications, matches or lighters were lying around - a good thing, Shipe pointed out.

"You always have to think of your brothers and sisters who are younger," Shipe told students.

The next slide showed a girl, perhaps 6 or 7, reaching for a glass of wine. Nearby were a bottle and can of beer.

"Moms and dads should not be giving you sips of alcohol," Shipe told her attentive audience. "It's not even right to pretend to drink. That's like pretending to smoke cigarettes. It's not healthy for you."

An adult in the house forgot to turn away the pot handles in the slide showing a boy, again age 6 or 7, reaching for a kettle on the stove.

Several students gasped when they saw the slide of a girl looking at a gun, located in an unlocked drawer.

"Oh my God!" one student exclaimed.

That shocked response actually is atypical, Shipe said later. Many students know where the gun is in their homes or have touched it or played with it.

"You should not know where it is and you should not touch guns and never, ever pretend to shoot it," Shipe told students. "Guns hurt people."

Other slides depicted less dangerous scenes, such as that of a girl washing her hands. Shipe asked students to tell



Town of Tonawanda Police Department Detective Joseph T. DeMatteo watches as Glendale student Noah Razor tries on a bicycle helmet in front of all the assembled students.

her a good time to wash hands. Answers included "After going to the bathroom," "After playing outside" and "Before eating."

Students were quick to point out the safety lapses shown in the slide of a girl, perhaps 8 or 9, playing with a Hula-Hoop in the street. First of all, she should not play in the street.

"What about the buddy system?" Shipe asked. "We learned we should not play by ourselves when away from our homes."

Students looked on with interest as Shipe showed them a display box she had made with row upon row of colored, candy-sized objects. Half the rows were actual candy; the other half were medicines. Students were hard-pressed to tell the difference, which is why they should always ask an adult before picking up or ingesting anything.

The highlight of the class came when Shipe presented the new 911 teaching unit. Students actually dial 911 and a voice, activated by the instructor, asks the caller his/her name and to explain the emergency.

"We can't practice calling 911 at home because if we call it, it's the real thing, so we'll practice here," Shipe said.

The cliché "practice makes perfect" really applies where children's safety is concerned. Parents are encouraged to review with their children these issues and more safety advice regularly to prevent accidents and perhaps something even more serious.



TEACHER OF THE YEAR HONORED

Lisa LaBrake was honored as High School Teacher of the Year during a

TEACHER READS/SCORES AP EXAMS

High School teacher Joseph Buscaglia participated in the annual reading and scoring of the College Board's Advanced Placement examination in European History this

SWEET HOME VOLUNTEERS SHOW THEY CARE

Some played games with children. Some cleared paths of overgrown brush. Others painted wooden carnival games. No matter what their assignment, the approximately 60 teachers, administrators and staff members from the Sweet Home Central School District who participated in the United Way's Day of Caring Wednesday, Aug. 20 gave their all.

One group of Sweet Home volunteers assembled welcome packets for the upcoming "Walktoberfest" at the American Diabetes Association on Alberta Drive in



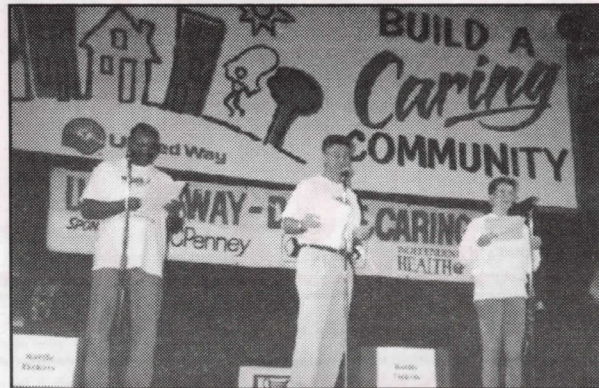
Day of Caring volunteers, from left, Barb White, Sue Mendel and Sue Martin paint outdoor carnival games at the Gateway campus on Main Street in Amherst.

Amherst. One group pulled up weeds and overgrown shrubbery on the trails behind the Gateway campus on Main Street in Amherst. The third group cleaned a cabin and painted wooden carnival games, also at the Gateway campus. One group played games and made crafts with summer campers at the YMCA on Belmont Avenue in Tonawanda. The fifth group helped with various painting projects at the YMCA on Belmont Avenue.

"The United Way asked me to convey thanks to you," said David R. Ebert, director of pupil personnel services, to the volunteers at a thank-you luncheon in the High School after they returned from their assignments. Ebert served as the district's Day of Caring coordinator.

"We really did Sweet Home proud," Superintendent Dr. Gary R. Cooper told the volunteers. "Many people took note of it."

Cooper served as one of the masters of ceremonies for the kick-off event at the Buffalo Convention Center Wednesday morning, greeting the more than 6,000 Day of Caring volunteers and sending them on their way. Cooper then joined the Sweet Home contingent at the Gateway campus.



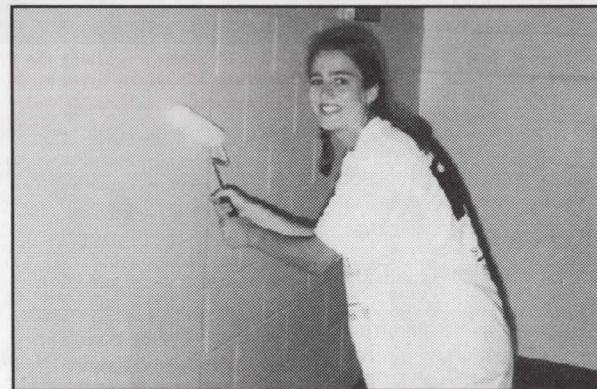
Superintendent Dr. Gary R. Cooper served as one of three masters of ceremonies for the kickoff celebration at the Buffalo Convention Center for the 6,000 Day of Caring volunteers.

Sweet Home volunteers had praise for the program, and many said they would sign up again next year.

"It's a great experience. It's great for community interaction," said Robert E. Gallagher, staff development coordinator, who was part of the YMCA contingent that spent time with summer campers. "We saw the extent of the program there. I had no idea it was as comprehensive as it was."

"It was fun," said Marge Glapinski, a secretary at Maplemere Elementary School who played games and made crafts with the YMCA campers. "I had a good time. I made a castle with some of the kids."

Also participating from Sweet Home were: Andrea Jarvis, Dr. Michelle Kavanaugh, Betty Lyons, Edie Mahoney, Elaine Skalski, Gery Styn, Lillian Wojnar, Joe



Day of Caring volunteer Jenny Bump paints a wall in the gymnasium at the YMCA on Belmont Avenue in Tonawanda.

Amico, Kathy Colicchia, Jenna DePasquale, Margo Fronczek, Kirsten Hoffman, Elaine Kellick, David Kurpita, Jack Mann, Susanne Roberts, Ray Wawrzyniak, Dan Dicenzo, Helen Dubill, Suzanne Martin, Susan Mendel, Kathy Monahan, Mary Rose, Barbara White, Paul Calandra, Susan Czajkowski, Sheila Delmonte, Sandy Greico, Debbie Jones, Dr. Susan Krickovich, Trish Krzesinski, Monica Lauffenburger-McDowell, Lisa Lawson, Jack Lyons, Lynette Orwat, Kelli Bogacz, Joanne Buell, Jennifer Bump, Sandi Busch, John Callowhill, Kim Cassidy, Peg Chimera, Melissa Fierstein, Jonathan Guillaume, Paul Hendel, Jill Hopcia, Maggie McDonald, Jacquelyn Mitchell, Sharrie Scully, Paul Shisler, Tom Valentine, Ronald Wells and David Wilmore.

A slide show from "Day of Caring" was shown at the opening day kick-off Tuesday, Sept. 2 just before the



This group of Day of Caring volunteers was assigned the task of assembling packets for the American Diabetes Association's upcoming Walktoberfest at the organization's Alberta Drive offices. From left: Betty Lyons, Andrea Jarvis, Gery Styn, Michelle Kavanaugh, Elaine Skalski, Edie Mahoney and Lillian Wojnar.

introduction of Sweet Home's own Robert Bennett, United Way president and member of the New York State Board of Regents.

Sweet Home first joined the Day of Caring four years ago with 12 volunteers. The Day of Caring originated six years ago and has grown to become the largest single-day event of its kind in the country.

Sweet Home employees have the opportunity to contribute to the United Way via payroll deduction or a lump sum payment. This year, the district has set a goal of 50 percent participation and contributions in excess of \$25,000.

