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New endowment to help school readiness programs

By TAYLOR MURCHISON-GALLAGHER STAFF WRITER

Early Learning - A PET Project is an endowment, that launched Jan. 21 in partnership with the Main Street Community Foundation, that was founded by Mary-Alice Petrucelli-Timek.

Petrucelli-Timek is the grant manager for the Bristol Public Schools -School Readiness Program.

According to the Main Street Community Foundation website, "Grants will be made to Bristol Preschool Child Care Center, Inc., and Imagine Nation , A Museum Early Learning Center, for the organization's general operating uses and program support purposes."

This is because, Petrucelli-Timek explained, funding for early childhood care programs and services have been greatly reduced, while the requirements for these centers are continuously changing and becoming more costly.

"The way that the school readiness grants are, and the way that they're received, they [the schools] have to spend that within that fiscal year," explained Petrucelli-Timek. "You know as well as I do that that is a nightmare for budgeting because you can never save anything."

Shirley Anderson and Marilyn Lobaczewski, the executive director and grant manager, respectively, of Bristol Preschool Child Care Center, and Coral Richardson, the director at Imagine Nation A Museum Early Learning Center, expressed their gratitude to Petrucelli-Timek, as their

organizations will be the sole beneficiaries of the endowment.

"These programs [school readiness and child care] are definitely needed," said Lobaczewski. "Parents rely on us 100 percent. There is a need out there that we still have a difficult time meeting."

Anderson said funding is important for nonprofit, school readiness programs. Since the cost to parents is determined by household income and family size, a family could pay as little as \$8 a week. This can be beneficial for the families that require these services, but detrimental to the programs as the cost to remain a quality service and a functional facility continues to rise.

"You have to be NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) accredited," said Anderson. "You have to meet all of these standards and guidelines and compliances, yet it's a way for a preschool aged child to be in a quality care center at an affordable price."

Richardson agreed, saying that one of the added mandates applies to the educational staff and their level of education. "We have bachelor's degrees, and we need to have compensation for those teachers; we need to pay them more."

Petrucelli-Timek started this endowment in memory of her departed brother, John. John Petrucelli was a successful audio engineer, whose designs were manufactured and sold internationally. Petrucelli-Timek emphasised that her brother's natural curiosity and love of learning is what

inspired her and their sisters to push themselves towards achievement. It's this love of learning that

inspired Petrucelli-Timek to See ENDOWMENT,

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Fire report

The Step Saver/ The Observer

The Bristol Fire Department reported the following incidents:

Jan. 12

193 Tuttle Rd., water or steam leak.

Redstone Hill Road and Birch Street, vehicle accident, general cleanup.

Oakridge smoke detector activation, no fire.

Maltby Street Stafford Avenue, vehicle accident, general cleanup.

44 Carolina Rd., electrical wiring/ equipment problem, other

899 Middle St., alarm system activation, no fire, unintentional.

111 Norwood Rd., arcshorted electrical equipment.

15 Woodard Dr., water or steam leak.

> 36 Pratt St., lock-out. Jan. 13

430 North Main St., assist police or other governmental agecy.

43 Jan Rd., carbon monoxide incident.

170 Enterprise Dr., overpressure rupture from steam, other

56 School St., false alarm or false call, other.

56 School St., false alarm or false call.

Bingham School, 3 North St., sprinkler activation due to malfunction.

121 Lyons Rd., public service.

57 Union St., water problem, other.

15 Roberge Rd., medical assist, assist EMS crew.

86 Kilmartin Ave., chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue.

720 Birch St., smoke detector activation due to malfunction.

145 Skyridge Rd., arcing , shorted electrical equip-

73 Park Hill St., gasoline or other flammable liquid spill.

Jan. 14

220 Ronzo Rd., alarm system sounded due to malfunction. 182 North Main St., lock-out.

182 North Main St., lock-out.

Downs Street and Riverside Avenue, vehicle accident, general cleanup.

400 North Main St., smoke detector activation due to malfunction.

131 Burlington Ave., unauthorized burning.

90 Church Ave., system malfunction, other.

100 Franklin St., sprinkler activation due to malfunction.

Jan. 15

90 Roberts Terrace, service call, other.

295 Redstone Hill Rd., Bristol, smoke detector activation due to malfunction.

140 Fairlawn St., no incident found on arrival at dispatch address.

183 West St., smoke or odor removal.

intent call, other.

Barnes Highway and Lincoln Avenue, combustible/ flammable gas/ liquid condition, other.

160 West Washington St., smoke detector activation due to malfunction.

266 West St., medical assist, assist EMS crew.

175 School St., lock-out. Ian. 16

14 Dwight St., building fire.

Muzzy Street and Park Street, vehicle accident, general cleanup.

97 South St., cooking fire, confined to container.

424 Lake Ave., false alarm or false call, other.

220 Surrey Dr., cooking fire, confined to container.

443 Burlington Ave., water evacuation.

895 Matthews St., water or steam leak 586 Wolcott Rd., smoke

10 Chestnut St., New 371 Emmett St., good Britain, cover assignment,

or odor removal.

standby, moveup.

Ian. 17

35 Bianca Rd., cooking fire, confined to container.

94 Gaylord St., lock-out. 23 Wooding St., smoke or odor removal.

Ian. 18

115 School St., lock-out. 112 Peck Lane, motor vehicle accident with injuries.

228 Prospect St., cooking fire, confined to con-

intent call, other.

42 Stafford Ave., motor accident with vehicle

Peacedale Street and Burlington Avenue, vehicle accident, general cleanup.

Jan. 19

28 Jewel St., carbon monoxide incident.

Birch Street and Bittersweet Lane, vehicle accident, general cleanup.

1 Pleasant St.

184 Perkin St., good

Endowment: Petrucelli

From page 3

want to start an endowment almost twenty years ago, in hopes of inspiring a love of learning in children.

When John Petrucelli died in early 2017, he had left his share of Apple stock to Petrucelli-Timek, and she plans to use that money to start Early Learning - A PET Project, so named after the

company John started while in high school.

All donations made to the Early Learning - A PET Project Fund will be split evenly between Imagine Nation A Museum Early Learning Center and Bristol Preschool Child Care Center, Inc.

Comments? Email tmurchison@BristolObserver .com.



JANELLE MORELLI

NHL, here he comes

On a recent afternoon, John Robert McRae practiced hockey on the ice at Rockwell Park



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Selected home offerings from: Bristol and Southington

Hot Properties



Southington, CT

Agency: Berkshire Hathaway Home Services

Phone: 860-620-3300 Agent: Donna Myjak

Features: Pristine home on a quiet cul-de-sac. The 2 story foyer, open flr plan. Spacious kitchen offers new granite, tiled backsplash, quality stainless appliances. First flr MB is large with updated bath. 3 BR's upstairs, nicely sized, finished walk out basement, kitchenette, bar area, full bath. The private yard is level, along with a maintenance free deck. Another garage bay in back. Great New Price! \$459,900



120 Valley View Rd, Thomaston, CT

Agency: Century 21 A-Gold Action Realty, Inc.

Agent: Barry Mackiewicz Phone: 860-589-1111 Ext. 102

Features: Country Setting!!! Spacious 7 rm contemporary, EIK w/sliders to back deck, great for relaxing or entertaining family & friends, family room has fireplace, living room w/ palladium window for lots of natural light, both rooms have vaulted ceilings, 3 bedrooms including master bedroom w/ high ceilings, full bath w/whirlpool & walk-in closet. Heated w/oil wair heat plus central air. Don't let this one get away, come see for yourself!!! \$299,900.

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109 Vineyard Rd, Burlington, CT

Agency: Offered Exclusively by Country Manor

Phone: 860-589-2100

Features: BUY, RENT OR RENT WITH OPTION TO BUY...THIS GORGEOUS SPLIT LEVEL HOME. Only 7 years old, boasts a nice open floor plan great for entertaining the EIK opens to the FR, with hardwood floors, a huge great room with gas fireplace, 3 BRs, 2.5 baths, finished lower level walk-out, 2 car garage on a gorgeous 4.7 acre lot with babbling brook. Don't miss out... Priced to sell at \$329,900. Also being offered for Rent w/Option or Rent at \$2100 a month plus security.

1/26 & 2/2/18

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