



Wheelabrator SAUGUS News

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WHEELABRATOR SUPPORTS SAUGUS SCHOOLS

Wheelabrator's Linda Sapienza, back right, visited the Ballard School on "Bring your Teddy Bear to School Day" to present a check to Principal Marie Bridges, center, and lead teacher Barbara Wall. Page 7.

PHOTO: SAM LIPSCOMB

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POWER PLAY

New plant manager well versed in energy

BY PAUL HALLORAN

An engineer by trade, Eric Lucier brings an extensive background in power production to his new role as plant manager at Wheelabrator Saugus.

Lucier, who started April 2, came to Wheelabrator after working the last 12½ years in Rhode Island and Central Massachusetts at combined cycle power plants, which produce power by burning

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ERIC LUCIER

A PUBLICATION OF:

Wheelabrator Saugus Inc.

Jairaj Gosine

Regional Manager

Eric Lucier

Plant Manager

Wheelabrator Saugus Inc.

100 Salem Turnpike

Saugus, MA 01906

Tel. 781-233-7600

wheelabratortechnologies.com

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781-598-8200

www.grantgroup.com

gccg@grantgroup.com



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ERIC LUCIER

As the new plant manager at Wheelabrator Saugus, I am looking forward to playing a role in Wheelabrator's ongoing efforts in the community. Since arriving in April, it has been an exciting and smooth transition. For that I am grateful to regional manager Jairaj Gosine and our dedicated team of employees here in Saugus.

We at Wheelabrator are proud to support a number of community events and programs, including: the annual Shadow Day and Unsung Heroes

events; an outdoor skating rink at Saugus High; Field Day at Waybright School; and welcoming Ballard Early Childhood Center students to Wheelabrator's Bear Creek Wildlife Sanctuary.

You will read in this edition about some of the positive things happening at our facility, such as the ongoing educational programming taking place at Bear Creek. This time of year is truly a beautiful time to get out and walk around the sanctuary, observing some of the rare birds and other wildlife who

chose to pay us a visit.

I thank you all for your continued interest in Wheelabrator. I have been proud to call Massachusetts my home for nearly 40 years, and I look forward to expanding my role in the Saugus community. It is a pleasure to call each one of you a neighbor.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Eric Lucier is plant manager of Wheelabrator Saugus.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT OUR DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VISITING THE PLANT PLEASE GIVE US A CALL AT 781-233-7600.

POWER PLAY New plant manager well versed in energy

LUCIER: from Page 1

natural gas, and using the resultant heat to produce steam that powers a turbine.

At Wheelabrator, the fuel that is processed to make energy is municipal solid waste; otherwise, the operation is very comparable.

"The obvious similarities are the power-generation aspect of the business, the selling of electricity and the boiler and turbine process," Lucier said.

A native of Milford, Mass., Lucier graduated from Massachusetts Maritime Academy in 1996 with a degree in marine engineering. Immediately after graduation, he started his career as a U.S. Coast Guard licensed Merchant Marine officer, working as an engineer on cargo ships sailing on the Great Lakes.

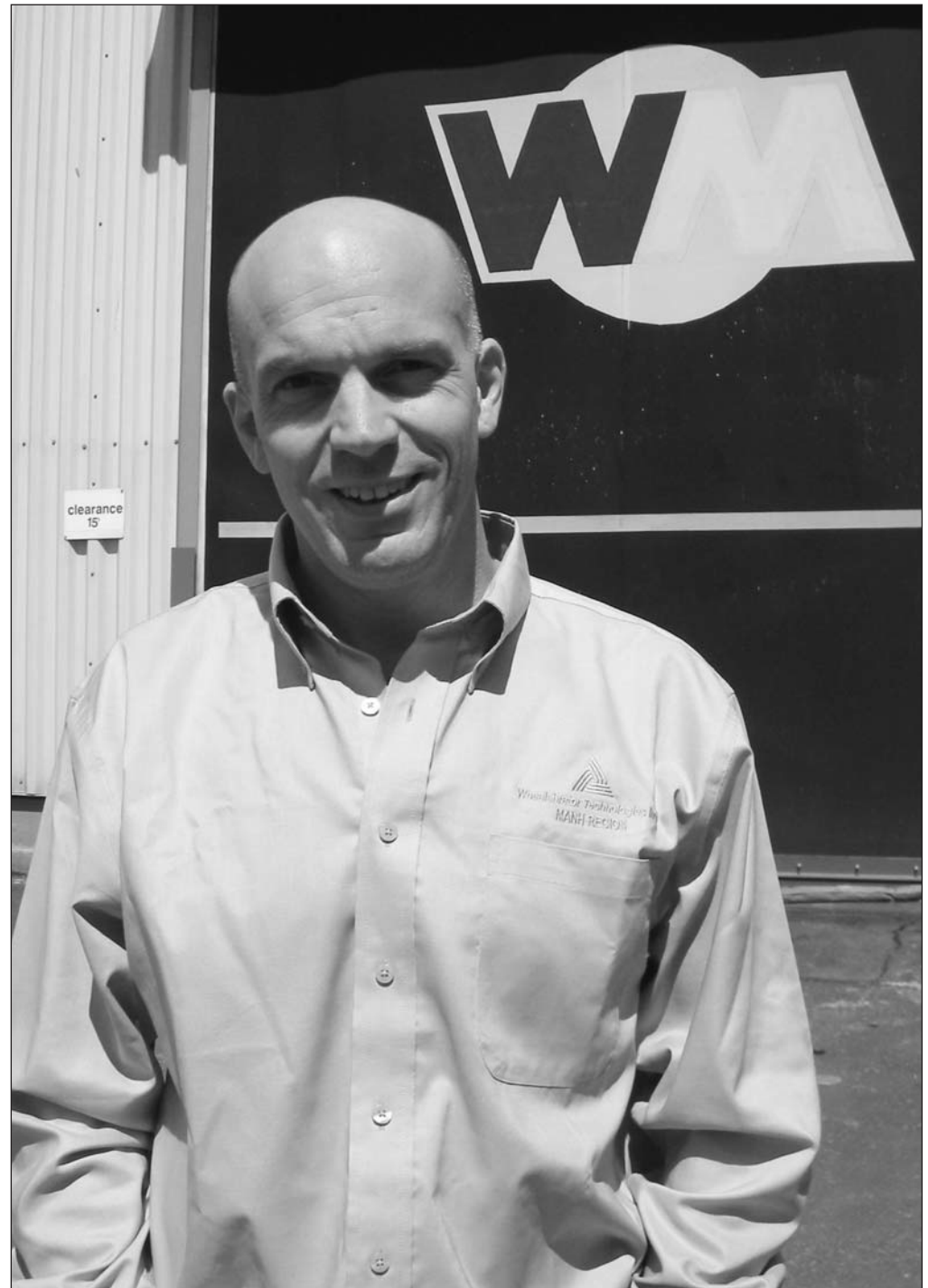
In 1999 Lucier went to work as an outside operator for Tiverton Power Associates in Rhode Island. The following year he was hired in the same capacity during the construction phase of International Power's new plant in Blackstone, Mass. He was eventually promoted to control room operator and shift supervisor.

In 2007, Lucier transferred to International Power's Bellingham plant as operations manager, remaining in that position until he came to Wheelabrator.

Lucier, who earned a master's degree in facilities management from Massachusetts Maritime in 2008, learned of the opening at the Saugus plant from an old friend, Peter DiCecco, Wheelabrator Millbury plant manager and a fellow Massachusetts Maritime graduate with whom he had worked at International Power. A call from DiCecco led to a meeting with Wheelabrator New England Regional Manager Jairaj Gosine and, before long, Lucier was on board.

"It's exciting," Lucier said of his new position. "I was looking for a new challenge. At my last plant we had 19 people and here we have 60. We have a great team and we are going to work well together."

Lucier lives in Mendon with his wife, Kelly, and their 20-month-old son, Matthew. They are expecting another child this year. Asked what he likes to do when he is not working, Lucier said "chase my son around." He also enjoys boating and "anything on the water."



Eric Lucier has been in the power generation business for more than 12 years.

Saugus students get an inside look on Shadow Day

By MEAGHAN CASEY

Donning hard hats and safety vests, a pair of Saugus High School juniors experienced first-hand what it takes to maintain the environmental health and safety standards at Wheelabrator Saugus.

The students, Crystal Fernandes and Shaun Downey, visited Wheelabrator as part of Saugus High's Shadow Day, which provides students with the opportunity to follow a mentor for the day and get a glimpse of a specific profession in a field that interests them. Teacher Laurie Golan started the program with a group of seniors in 1999, and it expanded this year to include juniors as well, giving them a head start in the career-exploration process.

More than 80 students participated in the event, held on March 14, joining their hosts for breakfast at the Hilltop before heading out to spend the day together. Fernandes and Downey shadowed Kristen Chardo, environmental manager at Wheelabrator Saugus.

"I've always been interested in engineering, so I wanted to find out more about what goes on here," said Fernandes, who had never stepped inside the Wheelabrator plant before, but had visited a power plant in Schenectady, N.Y. over the summer as part of the Educating Girls for Engineering (EDGE) program. Held at Union College, EDGE aims to encourage academically talented high school girls to pursue engineering studies in college.

Downey, who had previously visited Wheelabrator Saugus as a student at the former Ballard Elementary School, was looking forward to returning with a more mature and informed perspective.

"I thought it would be interesting to get an inside look and see how it all works," he said.

Chardo gave the students a full tour of the facility, landfill and adjoining Bear Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. She guided them through the waste-to-energy process and explained about continuous emissions monitoring, Massachusetts waste bans and what Wheelabrator does to protect the environment and provide a safe workplace for its employees.

"I think it's a great program, and hopefully a learning experience for them," said Chardo. "Any chance to put young students in the workplace of a field they're interested in is very beneficial."

Outside of Wheelabrator, students visited a variety of public and private offices, including the town's police and fire departments, the Massachusetts State House, Salem Hospital, the YMCA and other local businesses and organizations.



Crystal Fernandes, left, and Shaun Downey enjoyed their day at Wheelabrator Saugus plant.



Crystal Fernandes checks out the inside of a boiler.



Fernandes and Downey in the control room of the plant.

Birds-eye view



Soheil Zende, co-founder of Take a Second Look—which monitors bird populations in and around Boston Harbor—leads a group at Wheelabrator to the top of the landfill.



The Bear Creek Wildlife Sancutary is home to 24 bird species labeled as endangered or threatened, as well as other wildlife such as coyotes, fox, mink, raccoons and snakes.



From left, birdwatchers Ben Fuller of Woburn, Dustin Pelley of Wakefield, Peter Young of North Shore Community College (NSCC), Bruce Larson of Milton and Soheil Zende of Lexington.



Audry McCarthy and John Hoyer of Wayland test their equipment in view of the plant.

Bear Creek Sanctuary a popular spot for nature and its lovers

By Meaghan Casey

Two decades ago, construction began to transform a 160-acre landfill into a sanctuary for migratory birds and other wildlife. Today, that sanctuary has blossomed into one of the largest bird migration staging areas on the North Shore and a habitat for nearly two dozen bird species labeled as endangered or threatened, as well as other wildlife such as coyotes, foxes, raccoons and snakes.

Wheelabrator Saugus began planning for the Bear Creek Wildlife Sanctuary in 1992 and has spent more than \$2.2 million in restoring more than 100 acres of the capped landfill areas with native grasslands and implementing methods to prevent the growth of invasive plants.

“The site has been an operating landfill since 1950, but certain modernizations and habitat enhancements were necessary for it to maintain its place with the surrounding environment,” said Don Musial, general manager of landfills for Wheelabrator.

Musial explained that less than 15 acres of the landfill is active at any given time for the disposal of ash generated from the plant, and about eight acres is active for composting leaf and yard waste.

“It has been a joy to personally witness the variety of birds now breeding or visiting the site, alongside our active landfill operation,” Musial said.

To develop the sanctuary, Geoff Wilson of Northeast Wetlands Restoration came on board, planting 17,000 trees in the first year and creating nine coastal ecosystems, including coastal shrubland, early successional forest, native grasslands and wet meadows, to attract nearly 200 different types of birds.

The site has been certified since 2008 by the Wildlife Habitat Council in two separate categories—Wildlife at Work and Corporate Lands for Learning—for its land management practices and educational outreach programs. Through partnerships with local educational institutes, such as North Shore Community College (NSCC), the site is actively used as a classroom and field laboratory for a variety of environmental studies.

Peter Young, NSCC professor emeritus of environmental technology, frequently brings his students to Bear Creek for courses in forest hydrology and advanced silviculture. Through a new collaboration with the chemistry department at NSCC, chemistry students have been studying the water systems of the sanctuary. Partnering with the Massachusetts Audubon Society, Young has also been regularly running bird walks twice a month. Last year, he began a new program, Botanizing Wheelabrator Bear Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. Through that program, a team of citizen scientists study all aspects of the sanctuary’s

plants and are developing a working herbarium.

“It’s wonderful to have students of all backgrounds and ages coming in and seeing what we do here, and using the site for outdoor learning,” said Musial. “It really is an unrivaled space within such a close proximity to Boston.”

“What Geoff did in a few years is what nature would have done in 12,000 years of vegetation succession,” said Young. “He’s created an upland island of several different grasslands surrounded by various maritime brush lands and emerging forest habitats. Bear Creek seems to act like a beacon attracting birds that have evolved to favor such habitats. It is, indeed, a treasure.”

To continually attract new grassland species, Wilson works to introduce varied plant life and wildflowers to the habitat. That, in turn, has attracted insects such as monarch butterflies and bees. The habitat features a dozen beehives on-site, generating hundreds of pounds of honey each year.

“Based on our successes in Saugus, we’re now applying the land management practices developed in the landfill at our other sites in the region,” Musial said. “The landfill is a great example of how an industrial operation can adapt in relatively simple ways to not only co-exist with, but to benefit the surrounding environment.”



Josh Megyesy of West Newbury and Peter Young of NSCC.



Businesses including Wheelabrator Saugus, Lowe's Home Improvement, Agganis Construction, Saugus Chamber of Commerce and Dick's Sporting Goods contributed funding, materials and manpower to help make the outdoor rinks a reality.



ICE & EASY Wheelabrator contributes to Saugus High outdoor rinks

By PAUL HALLORAN

A great deal of collaboration went into the building of two outdoor skating rinks at Saugus High over the winter. If only Mother Nature had been on board. Yet, despite the unseasonably warm winter, the project was termed a great success by Saugus Youth Hockey Clinic Director Bob Belyea.

"We learned a lot and it brought the community together," Belyea said. "We had great support from town agencies and the business community."

Wheelabrator Saugus and several other businesses – including Lowe's Home Improvement, Agganis Construction, Saugus

Chamber of Commerce and Dick's Sporting Goods – contributed funding, materials and manpower to help make the outdoor rinks a reality. Chris Sparages, a hockey parent and co-owner of Williams & Sparages, an engineering firm, donated surveying services.

Several town agencies also played a role: Saugus Youth and Recreation, fire department, DPW and police, according to Belyea.

"We looked at it as a way to get kids in town interested in skating and hockey," said Belyea, who credited Saugus Youth Hockey mite coaches Matt Majeski and John Sweeney with coming up with the idea. "Youth and Rec looked at it as a way to get

the community involved and get kids outside. It was pretty cool."

Two skating surfaces were installed: a 100 x 50-foot rink framed with two-foot-high boards and a rink about 150 feet in diameter that was built in the infield of the upper field. The latter was contained by sandbags that were filled with infield mix that will be used on the field this spring.

Belyea said it cost about \$1,500 in materials for the two rinks, \$1,000 of which was donated by Wheelabrator. About 40 volunteers including Saugus Youth Hockey coaches, players and parents; Saugus High hockey, basketball and field hockey players and coaches; employees from Lowe's and

town agencies gathered on a sub-freezing day in December to build the rinks.

"I looked at it as providing something for kids to do, but also as a community-building event," said Greg Nickolas, director of Saugus Youth and Recreation.

Belyea said despite the warm winter, the rinks were able to be used for about three weeks in January – which was less than half the amount of time they were expected to be available. All of the materials used to build them have been stored at the high school and the plan is to try it again next year.

"We'd like to have a winter carnival, alumni games and some mite practices," he said.

Saugus Business Partnership approaches 10th anniversary

As it approaches its 10th anniversary, the Saugus Business Partnership remains true to its mission to build a stronger community for residents and businesses in Saugus.

Linda Sapienza, director of community relations for Wheelabrator Technologies, is currently president of the organization, which was founded in 2003 by Wheelabrator, the Saugus Federal Credit Union – now a division of Webster First Federal Credit Union, the Kowloon restaurant and the Palace, a nightclub that closed in 2006.

While the name would suggest the organization is focused on business, the reality is the SBP is also a civic group that continues to provide financial support to a variety of organizations in the town.

"Businesses can, and do make a difference," Sapienza said. "SBP



Former Celtics player Dana Barros, center, spoke at the quarterly meeting of the Saugus Business Partnership. With him are SBP President Linda Sapienza and SBP Treasurer John Smolinsky.

members take an active role in the community. We try to give back in areas that will have the greatest impact."

The SBP, which currently has 16 members, has donated more than \$150,000 to community organizations, including: Saugus High athletic program, Saugus Public Library, Saugus YMCA,

Saugus Historical Society, Saugus Senior Center, World Series Park, Adopt-a-School program, Saugus Speaks Out, Lions Club and Saugus Firefighters Scholarship Fund.

"The Saugus Business Partnership is a lifesaver for the sports teams in the town," Saugus High golf coach Jeff Mitchell has said. "They always help out when it is needed."

In addition to providing financial support for community groups, the SBP has worked with the state delegation on issues that directly affect the

Saugus business community. One of the founders of the SBP, Donald Wong of the Kowloon, is currently the state representative for Saugus.

"The SBP has always been about businesses getting together to help organizations in the town," Wong said. "We try to do as much as we can for the community."

Wheelabrator manager joins Chamber board

The Saugus Chamber of Commerce is alive and well, as evidenced by the 100-percent increase in membership in the last year. Wheelabrator Saugus is playing a role in the resurgence, with Plant Manager Eric Lucier set to join the Chamber's board of directors this summer.

Sean Grant is the executive director of the Chamber, which is operating out of space in the former Marleah Graves School, a building owned by the town and used by various community groups.

With membership having decreased to about 60 in 2010, Grant put together a group of business leaders to determine if there was interest in trying to revitalize the organization. Among those participating in that discussion were John Smolinsky of Webster First Credit Union (formerly Saugus Federal Credit Union), Kevin Tierney of Saugusbank, Steve Castinetti of Yellow Book, Tom Gannon of Gannon Real Estate and Tony Spaziale.

That discussion led to an Annual Meeting in January 2011, at which 12

members were elected to the board of directors. Grant officially became executive director in June 2011, at which time the dues structure was changed. Rather than having the dues based on the number of employees, there are now three levels of membership, offering various benefits and services, according to Grant. Membership now runs from January-December, as opposed to renewing on the date the business joined.

"The response has been phenomenal," Grant said. "We had 30 people at our first Annual Meeting and 120 people this year (in February). We have been growing fairly rapidly."

Membership is now at about 125-130; Grant is hoping to grow it to more than 200 by the end of June. One of the initiatives he has implemented is a Tourism and Cultural Committee that is working on attracting visitors to sites in town such as the Saugus Iron Works.

"We're trying to maximize the resources Saugus has to offer," Grant said.



GOLF TOURNAMENT BENEFITS SAUGUS HIGH SPORTS

Wheelabrator Saugus was the primary sponsor of the third annual Saugus High Athletics Golf Tournament, donating \$3,000. The tournament was held June 25 at Ferncroft Country Club in Middleton. Wheelabrator has served as the main sponsor of the tournament since its inception in 2010. Proceeds from the first two years have been used for a variety of purposes, including: a total renovation of the Towers Gym at the high school, new uniforms, updating the weight room, developing the

new middle school football program, getting all coaches CPR/First Aid certified, getting lights for night football/field hockey games and new athletic equipment. Wheelabrator Saugus Plant Manager Eric Lucier, right, and Wheelabrator Community Relations Specialist Heidi Choate, second from right, present the sponsorship check to Saugus High Athletic Director Mike Nelson, second from left, and Saugus Selectwoman Julie Mitchell.

Wheelabrator donates \$9,500 to Saugus schools



Wheelabrator's Linda Sapienza has fun with Ballard students.

Wheelabrator Saugus is in its first year of a partnership with the Ballard Early Childhood Center, and as far as Principal Marie Bridges is concerned, she hopes the relationship lasts for a long time.

"It's wonderful that Wheelabrator has decided to partner with us," said Bridges, who runs the school of 110 pre-school students ages 3-5. "It's been an amazing partnership."

Wheelabrator recently donated \$7,000 to Ballard, funds that will be used for a variety of items, according to Bridges. The school has purchased tricycles and helmets for students to use, as well as die cuts for teachers to make classroom decorations and curriculum aids.

The school brought in a pediatrician to speak to parents about nutrition, medications, child development and other topics, as well as any questions they had. Bridges said it a worthwhile event that she plans to repeat at some point.

Students went on a field trip sponsored by Wheelabrator, and Bridges is looking into bringing the Curious Creatures animal exhibit to the school. Just before Christmas, "elves" from Wheelabrator delivered new hats and gloves to Ballard students.

"We are certainly making good use of the money given to us by Wheelabrator," said Bridges, a Saugus native who went to school at Ballard when it was an elementary school. "It will allow us to provide a lot of extras that the students would otherwise go without."

Wheelabrator Director of Community Relations Linda Sapienza enjoyed a visit to the school. "I continue to be impressed with the dedication of Marie, (Lead teacher) Barbara Wall and the rest of the staff," Sapienza said. "For us as a company, it is very rewarding to see the positive impact we can have in the community."

In addition to the Ballard partnership, Wheelabrator donated \$2,500 to the Veterans Memorial Elementary School, where Bridges is assistant principal. The money is being used to convert the library into a learning commons. Bridges compared the new setup to a Barnes & Noble bookstore.

"Wheelabrator asked us to come up with a wish list, which we were happy to do," Bridges said. "We feel very fortunate that we have already been able to cross several items off the list, and we are grateful to Wheelabrator for their enthusiastic support."



Pre-school students William Diggs, left, and Justin Pires measured each other's height.



HEROES WELCOME

From left, Unsung Heroes Diana Reach, Kyle Cocorochio, Kurt Martin, Gabriella Moreschi, Superintendent of Schools Richard Langlois, Alexis Gallotto, Wheelabrator's Heidi Choate, Jack Blake, Anthony Guthro, Madelyn Claffey and Melissa McCarthy at the SBEC ceremony at Prince Restaurant in Saugus.

SBEC recognizes nine Saugus students as Unsung Heroes

The Saugus Business Education Collaborative honored nine outstanding students at the eighth annual Unsung Heroes award ceremony at Prince Restaurant.

The students were recognized for their academic efforts and contributions to their school community. To qualify for the award, students must have shown consistent academic effort, exemplary character, mature behavior, outgoing personality and good citizenship.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to pay tribute to those students who make positive contributions in their classrooms and in the community," said Heidi Choate, SBEC board member and community relations specialist

for Wheelabrator Technologies. Wheelabrator Saugus, a founding member of the SBEC, provides funding for the awards the students receive and has sponsored the Unsung Heroes event since its inception.

THEY LEAD BY EXAMPLE AND SERVE AS GREAT ROLE MODELS.

This year's Unsung Hero award recipients include: Gabriella Moreschi and Jack Blake, Veterans Memorial Elementary School; Alexis Gallotto, Lynnhurst Elementary; Madelyn Claffey, Oaklandvale Elementary; Kyle Cocorochio, Waybright, Elementary; Diana Reach and Kurt Martin, Belmonte Middle School; and Anthony Guthro and Melissa McCarthy, Saugus High.

The students' principals and teachers spoke at the event, highlighting each honoree's character and actions.

"They're all to be commended," said Superintendent of Schools Richard Langlois. "They lead by example and serve as great role models to others."

Unsung Heroes is one of several initiatives sponsored by the SBEC, which for nearly two decades has been dedicated to fostering collaboration between the business community and Saugus Public Schools, in the hopes of enhancing the educational opportunities for future generations of students.

Comprised of local businesspeople, government officials and school employees, the SBEC was founded in 1992. The money it raises annually goes towards mini-grant

awards for teachers and sponsorship of field trips, guest reader programs, Shadow Day and other enrichment activities. To date, the SBEC has raised more than \$150,000 for Saugus students.

"It's important for community members to not only become more aware of the positive things that are taking place in the schools, but to play their own part in making additional programs and experiences for the students a reality," said Choate.

The 20th annual Taste for Education, SBEC's biggest fundraiser, was held on April 30 at the Danversport Yacht Club.



Heidi Choate, Saugus High's Melissa McCarthy, teacher Ken Webb and Principal Joseph Diorio.



John Smolinsky opened the SBEC Unsung Heroes ceremony.