



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Dog Bite Prevention Week, May 21-27

Supervisor Christopher P. Lawrence to Present a Family Musical to Benefit Doggone Safe at Ramapo Cultural Arts Center, 64 North Main Street, Spring Valley, NY – May 20

Rockland, New York, May 5, 2006 – During the third week in May, the U.S. Postal Service, the American Veterinary Medical Assoc. (AMVA), Doggone Safe Inc. and other organizations will be calling attention to one of the nation's most commonly reported public health problems: dog bites.

On May 20th, Ramapo Supervisor, Christopher P. St. Lawrence, will be presenting a must-see family musical "The People Garden". As the Supervisor and the Rockland County Health Department both recognize the benefit of education as a means of preventing dog bite injuries, the ticket proceeds will be going to Doggone Safe, a not-for-profit organization, to help bring their "Be a Tree" bite prevention program to our local schools.

This "off-Broadway" type of musical, by The Sandcastle Organization theatre group, is whimsical yet emotionally stirring. A day in kindergarten becomes a musical journey through some important life lessons. Topics include, telling the truth, getting along with others, not bullying and living a balanced life. With the exception of one adult, all the performers are children.

One of the Sandcastle performers is a dog attack victim. Three years ago, Haley Potter was mauled by a pack of neighbor's dogs in her own yard. With approximately 100 bite wounds including a punctured trachea, she spent close to a month in I.C.U. Despite residual scaring she is doing well and enjoys performing in "The People Garden".

This personal tragedy inspired Kerry Potter-Kotecki, Haley's mother, to join the efforts of Doggone Safe, Inc. Recently promoted to Vice President, Kerry has brought the "Doggone Safe Be a Tree" children's program to our area and is dedicated to the organization's mandate: "Dog bite prevention through education". This program, for school age children, is a short presentation with large photos and lots of activities to teach children to understand the signs dogs send with their body language. The central message of this program is "Be a Tree". That is, stand still if a strange dog approaches or any dog is threatening or overly frisky.

This is an excellent opportunity to bring the whole family to a highly entertaining musical; see the newly renovated Cultural Arts Center; and, help bring bite prevention

education to our local schools! Doors open at 1:30 for raffles & refreshments. Tickets are \$7 and available through the Department of Parks & Recreation 357-6100.

About The Sandcastle Organization:

The Sandcastle Organization is a non-profit theatrical group. Their mission is to provide children with the opportunity to reach their goals in the arts within a nurturing, educational environment. Writer/Director and founder, Paul Armento strives to create a special and meaningful experience for young audiences and performers alike where the performing arts can be seen not only as a means of expression, but as a means of making positive changes in the world around us. His original musicals have been presented at hundreds of schools throughout the metropolitan area and at other venues, including Off-Broadway.

About Doggone Safe Inc.:

The not-for-profit Doggone Safe organization's mandate was based on jurors recommendations following an inquest into the mauling death of 8 year old Courtney Trempe in Ontario, Canada. Along with their many educational programs, Doggone Safe also provides victim support and administers the Courtney Trempe Memorial fund, in honor of her memory, to help provide trauma counseling (not provided by insurance) for child dog bite victims and their families.

Visit www.doggonesafe.com for more information

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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