

# The Coast Star

Since 1877

A STAR NEWS GROUP Newspaper

Thursday, October 16, 2008

## Wall High School students hammer the job home

By Dan Zomack

Wall High School technical education students gained first hand, on-the-job experience recently when they helped construct a Coastal Habitat for Humanity house in the township.

It was a new and productive experience for the students enrolled in the Materials and Processing II class at Wall High School last Wednesday afternoon, said their technical education teacher, Douglas Richardson.

Fourteen students in the advanced class gained first hand experience constructing a house at 1028 18th Avenue for the Coastal Habitat for Humanity organization. "The students enrolled in this year's class have demonstrated outstanding craftsmanship abilities at the entry level course of Materials and Processing by producing scale models of familiar forms of transportation," said Mr. Richardson.

"In an effort to introduce these young craftsmen to the relevance of knowing how to plan a project and to use the tools and equipment necessary to arrive at a desired outcome, the class this year will be primarily involved with home construction and maintenance," the teacher explained. "It was with good fortune that the Habitat for Humanity organization had a house being built in the township and welcomed the partnership with the technical education students last spring."

Mr. Richardson said this project was the highlight of his 26-year career as a teacher.

With the support of school



SUEANNE GOSS, The Coast Star

**Wall High School junior Vin Marchetti [left] and senior Joe Sasala were among 14 students who gained first-hand experience last week when they helped construct a Coastal Habitat for Humanity house on 18th Avenue in Wall.**

administration, Mr. Richardson pointed out, this year's class will participate in hands-on activities such as the latest field trip, along with constructing a scaled model of a house that they selected from

the Internet. "Since a house has so many areas of practical hands-on activities," the teacher said, "the class also plans on constructing a mock up kitchen to introduce the students to house wiring, plumb-

ing, and cabinet-making skills."

At the house, the students concentrated on putting up sheetrock. The job they did impressed their teacher.

Mr. Richardson said the students learned how to measure and put up the sheetrock, something that seemed to come natural to many of them. "It was really engaging," he added.

Joe Mairano, the construction manager at the house, said the students were polite, respectful, and eager to learn new things.

"They picked up on it right away," Mr. Mairano said of the lesson on how to put up sheetrock he gave at the beginning of the day.

Mr. Richardson said that as the day progressed, the students began to work independently and eventually spread into four different rooms putting up the sheetrock.

"They did better than some of the professional jobs I see," Mr. Mairano said. "Some of them really had that talent for construction."

Joseph Sasala, 17, a senior at Wall High School, said it was a really great project and he, along with the rest of his fellow students, were proud to have been a part of it.

"For a bunch of teenagers, Joseph said, "we did a pretty good job putting up sheetrock for the first time."

This is the first home Coastal Habitat is building in Wall, as the group has built all of its other homes in Neptune and Asbury Park, according to Maureen Mulligan, executive director for

Coastal Habitat for Humanity.

The mission of Coastal Habitat for Humanity, according to their Web site, "is to raise awareness of the acute need for affordable housing in such a way that poverty housing and homelessness become socially, politically, and religiously unacceptable. Coastal Habitat for Humanity seeks to build community and improve lives by partnering with low income families and community volunteers to build simple, decent, affordable, safe and efficient homes."

The Wall home is the twelfth home that the local chapter is building for a family in need, according to Mrs. Mulligan.

In order for a family to receive the home, they must meet three specific criteria — the family must prove a sufficient need for the home, the family must have a steady income, and the family must commit to help building the home by providing 250 hours of "sweat equity," which means adults in the family who would be living in the home must help out in the construction of the home, in some physical way.

The family will also pay the no-interest mortgage on the home to Coastal Habitat. If the family decided to move out of the house at some point, the family would receive back the money they put into the mortgage. They would only receive the money back though, once the house was sold by Coastal Habitat, who would take the home over and, once again, eligible families could apply to live there.