

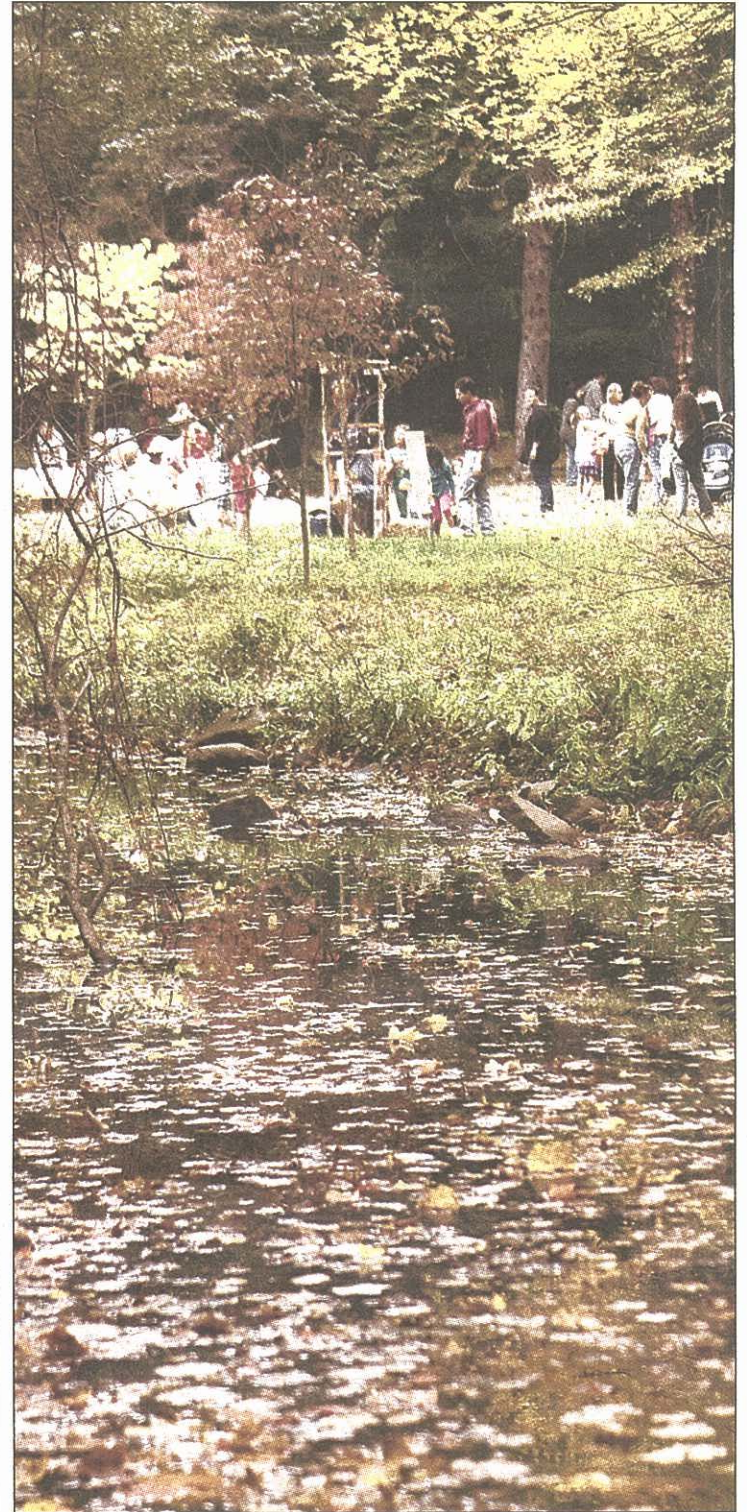


PHOTOS BY TOM HART

Four-year-old Drew Vaccaro resists the urge to use his hands as he 'bobs' for a cinnamon doughnut at the Fall Festival, held at Sapienza Gardens, in Hillsdale, on a recent Sunday.



Dawn Epiphaniou, center, and her Daisy Troop 4321, reacts when they were announced as the winners of the Scarecrow Contest at the Fall Festival at Sapienza Gardens.



In the foreground, the brook that runs through Sapienza Gardens is nearly camouflaged by fallen leaves. In the meadow, visitor had the chance to vote for their favorite scarecrow; some of the entries can be seen center.

SAPIENZA GARDENS

Fun for everyone at first Fall Festival

BY KATHRYN BURGER
Of Community Life

HILLSDALE - With the sun shining through the trees, illuminating the leaves of gold, orange, and red, people streamed into Sapienza Gardens on a recent Sunday for a Fall Festival. A display of scarecrows - waiting to be judged -

were in the meadow area near the brook. Two long tables held homemade pies - apple, pecan and cherry among them - ready for the judges to taste. Children in their Halloween costumes, rushed to the table where free "scary" temporary tattoos were available. In a lightly wooded area, volunteers were "threading" cinnamon

doughnuts with string and tying them to a rope strung between two trees. In no time, children were bobbing for a bite - no hands allowed. There was also trick-or-treating to be done and a bake sale of homemade goodies to tempt visitors.

The nearly three-acre park was named in memory of Barbara

Sapienza, the principal of Pascack Valley High School. The Sapienza Gardens Foundation was formed shortly after her untimely death in March of 2008. Since then, the Foundation has, with the help of many local organizations and individuals, transformed the untended, overgrown and debris-strewn tract into a beautiful,

accessible park with walking trails and benches. There are plans for more improvements and the board of trustees encourages anyone interested in furthering these efforts, to contact the Foundation. For more information, visit sapienzagardens.org

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