

Issue

Opinion	82
Special Ad	84
Marketplace	84
Calendar	85
Health	85
Sports	85-88

LOCAL

B

New Berwyn
police chief
starts in
Page B2



Gloucester men send strong anti-violence message

By Dave Lester

The Daily Item

GLoucester — The names of nearly 500 Gloucester men are etched on a newly erected billboard that will be dedicated Saturday in a show of support for the fight against domestic violence.

Paraphrasing the first ever billboard campaign of its kind, it is spearheaded by Gloucester Men Against Domestic Abuse and by Men for HAWC, a group formed to bolster the efforts of Help for Abused Women and their Children (HAWC), the only shelter and emergency counseling service for victims of battering.

Towering above Railroad Avenue, the billboard's message is clear: Strong men don't bully. According to Willy Green-

baum, coordinator of the two men's groups, the campaign and billboard addressing the issue of domestic abuse was jointly initiated and created by men living and working in the seacoast community. The 488 names include those of fishermen, plumbers, mechanics, carpenters, musicians, doctors, star athletes, lawyers, bakers, bankers, custom car specialists, schoolteachers, poets and pub owners. Some are gay, others are recovering from alcohol and substance abuse. A few have criminal records or admittedly were abusive toward their mothers. They range in age from teen-agers to elderly.

"The men of Gloucester who are responsible for sending this incredible message have tremendously diverse back-

Sponsored by more than 400 Gloucester Men Against Domestic Abuse.

STRONG MEN DON'T BULLY

To Add Your Name, Call 978-282-4811

grounds," said Greenbaum, adding that they paid for the printing and post of the billboard. The notion that domestic violence is not acceptable is especially compelling to the women of the community as Valentine's Day approaches, he said.

Greenbaum noted that the

billboard was professionally designed by Barry Rowe, who donated his services. AK Media donated the space.

"We cannot be strong and be abusing women or children. We need to talk among ourselves, to our male friends and family members and send this message of what it means to be a strong

and healthy man. We have to develop services for those of us men who need help overcoming habits of aggression and control," Greenbaum said. "The real gift here is to ourselves as men, to the women and girls and to the entire community. We have been silent way too long and our silence has been condoning emotional abuse and physical violence."

In 1996, several men who didn't know each other contacted Salem-based HAWC to find out what they could do to help the organization with its mission and to put an end to men's silence on the issue. Three years later, Greenbaum helped establish Gloucester Men Against Domestic Abuse, saying it was "not so much an organization as an attitude"

and that men should stop being abusive and taking that attitude into their workplaces and homes.

"We're thrilled to be collaborating with Gloucester Men Against Domestic Abuse. Their leadership has encouraged other men to examine their attitudes and behaviors to create the systemic social change which will end family violence," said HAWC Executive Director Candace Waldron. "Men are able to engage in conversation with other men on this topic in ways that women can't. We need nurturing male role models in order for today's boys to grow up and become healthy men."

Gloucester declared itself a domestic violence-free zone last year.