

## Office of the Governor

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### NEWS RELEASE

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### **Governor Whitman Presents Check at Neptune Performing Arts Center and Joins Groundbreaking Event at Camp Evans for North Wall Little League**

The old Neptune High School in Ocean Grove is now the Neptune Performing Arts Center and portions of Camp Evans, a former satellite branch of Fort Monmouth, will be the site of North Wall Little League's new baseball fields.

Governor Christie Whitman today presented a check at the Neptune Performing Arts Center in Ocean Grove and participated in a groundbreaking ceremony at Camp Evans in Wall Township - both examples of the Governor's commitment to historic preservation and more open space.

At both events, the Governor included members of the Legislature, Senator Joseph A. Palaia (R-11), and Assembly Members Steven J. Corodemus (R-11) and Thomas S. Smith (R-11), who were responsible for spearheading these projects to the benefit of the local community.

### **Governor Presents Check at the Neptune Performing Arts Center**

Gov. Whitman today toured the Neptune Performing Arts Center in Ocean Grove and presented a check demonstrating the State's contribution of \$50,000 to the Ocean Grove Historical Preservation Society in support of its efforts this year to save the historic building.

"New Jersey has earned a solid reputation for its commitment to recycling. Today we celebrate another kind of recycling - turning a once-beloved school into a magnificent performing arts center," said Gov. Whitman.

The construction project is being coordinated by the Ocean Grove Historical Preservation Society, a non-profit organization formed in 1996 to save the historic building. Built in 1898 as Neptune High School, the building was abandoned in 1967. When completed, the Neptune Performing Arts Center will have 16 classrooms and will feature musical seminars for local children on Saturdays and drama therapy for special education students.

## **Governor Participates in Groundbreaking Ceremony at Camp Evans**

Gov. Whitman also today joined local officials for a groundbreaking ceremony at Camp Evans in Wall Township to celebrate another home run - this one in the form of teamwork between the federal, state and local government that will enable North Wall Little League to enjoy four more baseball fields. Camp Evans is a federal property that is being donated to Wall Township.

"More fields mean more chances for youngsters to run around, have fun, improve their skills, and maybe dream of becoming the next New Jersey kid to make the major leagues," Gov. Whitman said.

"I'm also glad that Wall Township will use some of the land for active and passive recreation. The people of our state made it clear last November that they want a clean and green New Jersey, with acres for recreation preserved for all time," according to the Governor.

The construction of four more ballfields will occur on a portion of Camp Evans. More than 700 children and 400 families are involved in North Wall Little League where they currently enjoy two baseball fields and a concession area. Wall Township will use the remainder of the property for active and passive recreation activities and Brookdale Community College will use some as its southern Monmouth branch.

